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THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
14 pages • ₹6.00

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

NEARBY

One year on, Sir MV terminal yet to be opened

BENGALURU

It has been over a year since the swanky Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal at Byappanahalli has been ready. But the inordinate delay in throwing it open to the public has drawn the ire of railway activists and citizens who have demanded that South Western Railway should not delay any further in commencing commercial services from the terminal.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Bommai asks DCs to bring in change

BENGALURU

After reviewing the implementation of budgetary programmes with Ministers, Basavaraj Bommai, CM, on Sunday instructed Deputy Commissioners to bring in change in the district administration and face challenges together to make the administration more responsive to the public. He asked them to execute the Government's programmes promptly by taking bold decisions

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGE 5

'Citizenship delayed, 800 Pakistani Hindus left India'

Home Ministry examining online system

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Pakistani Hindu migrants outside their makeshift houses at a village in Jodhpur in 2019. • FILE PHOTO

Nearly 800 Pakistani Hindus, who were staying in Rajasthan after coming to India seeking citizenship on the grounds of religious persecution, returned to the neighbouring country in 2021, according to Seemant Lok Sangathan (SLS), a group that advocates for the rights of Pakistani minority migrants in India. Many of them returned to Pakistan after they found that there had been no progress in their citizenship application.

"Once they return, they are used by Pakistani agencies to defame India. They are paraded before the media and made to say that they were ill-treated here," SLS president Hindu Singh Sodha said.

The Union Home Ministry initiated an online citizenship application process in 2018, but the portal does not accept Pakistani passports that have expired, forcing people to rush to the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi to get their passports renewed for a hefty sum. "If it is a family of 10, then they end up spending more than ₹1 lakh at the Pakistan High Commission to get the passports renewed. They come to India amid great financial hardships and to cough up such a high amount is not feasible," Mr. Singh said.

A Ministry official said it was examining the online system. In 2018, the Ministry made 16 Collectors in seven States accept online applications to grant citizenship to Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Jain and Buddhists from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

In May 2021, the Ministry empowered 13 more District Collectors in five States – Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab – to grant citizenship certificates to applicants belonging to the six communities under Sections 5 (registration) and 6 (naturalisation) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

According to Mr. Singh, other than applying online, applicants have to submit documents to Collectors in the physical mode, which is an added burden.

The Ministry informed the Rajya Sabha on December 22, 2021 that according to the online module, as many as 10,635 applications for citizenship were pending with the Ministry as on December 14, of which 7,306 applicants were from Pakistan.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Russia bombs shelter, 60 'dead'

G7 leaders hold online talks with Zelensky, stress phasing out of Russian oil

REUTERS
KYIV

As many as 60 people were feared to have been killed in the Russian bombing of a village school in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk, the regional governor said on Sunday.

Governor Serhiy Gaidai said Russian forces dropped a bomb on Saturday afternoon on the school in Bilohorivka where about 90 people were sheltering, causing a fire that engulfed the building. "The fire was extinguished after nearly four hours, then the rubble was cleared, and, unfortunately, the bodies of two persons were found," Mr. Gaidai wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

"Thirty people were evacuated from the rubble, seven of whom were injured. Sixty people were likely to have died under the rubble of buildings."

No refuge: The school building damaged in shelling at a village in Luhansk, Ukraine, on Sunday. • REUTERS

Reuters could not immediately verify the report.

Ukraine and its western allies have accused the Russian forces of targeting civilians in the war, which Moscow denies.

Meanwhile, leaders from the Group of Seven developed democracies pledged to phasing out or banning the import of Russian oil, as they met with Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky, for online talks to stress their support and to display unity among Western allies on Victory in Europe Day, which marks Nazi Germany's surrender in 1945.

Cutting out Russian oil supplies "will hit hard at the main artery of (President Vladimir) Putin's economy and deny him the revenue he needs to fund his war," the G-7 countries, which include the U.S., Britain, Canada, Germany, France and Italy and Japan, said in a statement.

"We will ensure that we do so in a timely and orderly fashion, and in ways that provide time for the world to secure alternative supplies," they added.

(With AP inputs)

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

U.S. FIRST LADY, CANADIAN PM VISIT UKRAINE ▸ PAGE 11

'We must insist on LAC status quo ante'

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

China's mobilisations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in May 2020 that sparked a crisis that, two years on, still remains unresolved, could not have likely happened without the top leadership's consent, according to Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda (retd.), former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Army Command.

"It's impossible that such a large-scale and coordinated action... was done locally," Gen. Hooda told *The Hindu* in an interview, adding that the change in the Chinese military's behaviour pre-dated the 2020 crisis with a gradual dilution in the confidence-building measures (CBMs) going as far back as 2013, when President Xi Jinping took over.

India "must continue to insist" on restoring the status quo ante, he added.

In 2014, another border crisis in Chumar coincided with Mr. Xi's first visit to India. "The fact is, it wasn't a small incursion... We had a small post, not more than 40, 50 people. But what came across..... was around 3,000. It wasn't something that a local commander did or that was not known to the PLA hierarchy or political leadership," Gen. Hooda said.

INTERVIEW ▸ PAGE 9

Commission to recommend political representation for OBCs formed

Three-member pre-tender scrutiny panel too constituted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Government has constituted a commission to conduct a study on providing suitable political representation for the backward classes besides appointing a three-member Pre-Tender Scrutiny Committee to curb irregularities in tendering process. The commission which would look into political representation for backward classes is headed by former Karnataka High Court judge Bhaktavatsala. The commission has been constituted following a Supreme Court directive in a case related to ensuring suitable representation for backward classes in panchayat raj institutions and urban local bodies. The court had made it clear that such political reservation for OBCs could not be given without identifying the political backwardness through a study.

The issue had been discussed at all-party meetings held on March 23 and 31 where it was decided to hold the elections to various local bodies only after making provision for reservation for OBCs. The commission would make suitable recommendations after studying the political backwardness of backward classes in these democratic institutions, said an official release.

According to sources, the commission has been given a three-month timeframe to submit its recommendations to the Government. Retired IAS officer C.R. Chikmath has been appointed as member of the commission.

The three-member Pre-Tender Scrutiny Committee is headed by retired Karnataka High Court judge K. Rathnakala. The committee will have an engineering expert B. G. Gurupadaswamy, who retired as Secretary, Water Resources, and a finance expert K. Nandakumar, who retired as Director, State Accounts and Audit Department, as its members. The committee will be housed in the Public Works Department. The committee has been mandated to scrutinise all tenders above ₹50 crore according to the guidelines already issued to curb irregularities in the tendering process.

The move comes days ahead of the crucial May 11 meeting of the Executive Committee of Karnataka State Contractors' Association that has threatened to stop work across the State for a month in protest against the alleged "40% commission in contracts".

CONTRACTORS UNHAPPY OVER RS. 50 CRORE LIMIT FOR PRE-TENDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ▸ PAGE 4

Future looms dark for 48% of bird species

With increasing human footprint, they are undergoing population decline: study

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Humans eat 14% of the world's surviving species of birds. However, this is not the only reason why 48% of the extant bird species are undergoing population decline, a study by nine renowned avian experts and conservationists has revealed.

The State of the World's Birds, an annual review of environmental resources published on May 5, has attributed the threat to almost half of the 10,994 recognised extant species of birds to the expanding human footprint on the natural world and climate change.

Over 5,200 bird species are facing decline in numbers. • K. K. MUSTAFAH

The degradation and loss of natural habitats as well as direct overexploitation of many species are the key threats to avian biodiversity, the study led by the Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) says.

The use of 37% of the surviving bird species as common or exotic pets and 14% as food are examples of direct overexploitation, the report indicates.

The review found that 5,245 or about 48% of the existing bird species worldwide were known or suspected to be undergoing population decline. While 4,295 or 39% of the species had stable trends, about 7% or 778 species had increasing population trends. The trend of 37 species was unknown.

The study underlines birdwatching as a form of avian conservation but warns of "local negative impacts" of bird feeding valued at $5 billion-$6 billion a year.

The study that involved scientists from MMU, Cornell University, Birdlife International, the University of Johannesburg, Pontifical Xavierian University and the India-based Nature Conservation Foundation reviewed changes in avian biodiversity using data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List.

THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Vote value of an MP

700 The likely value of the vote of a Member of Parliament in the presidential polls scheduled in July. The value came down from 708 due to the absence of a Legislative Assembly in J&K, officials said on Saturday. It is not for the first time that legislators of a State assembly will not be able to participate in the presidential elections. In 1974, the 182-member Gujarat Assembly was dissolved in March following the Navnirman Andolan and could not be constituted before the presidential election. PTI

Burkina Faso crisis

2 In million, the number of people internally displaced by Burkina Faso's rapidly rising Islamic extremist violence, according to the UN. The rush of civilians from rural villages has put pressure on Burkina Faso's cities. "Some of the host cities have doubled or tripled in size in the past three years, and their infrastructure is often stretched to a breaking point," said Hassane Hamadou, country director for the Norwegian Refugee Council. When it seized power in January, Burkina Faso's ruling junta vowed to stamp out extremist violence. AP

Support for Sri Lanka

100 In million, the amount being considered by the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank as an emergency support to Sri Lanka, China's Finance Ministry said on Sunday. Sri Lanka has requested foreign-exchange liquidity support for state banks from the lender, it said in a statement. The South Asian island's economy is in crisis, with usable foreign reserves down to $50 million. Shortages of imported food, fuel and medicines have brought thousands onto the streets. REUTERS

Teen tennis sensation

19 The age of Spanish tennis player Carlos Alcaraz who defeated both Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic in Madrid open the past week. After defeating his idol Nadal in the quarterfinals on Friday, the 19-year-old Alcaraz rallied to beat top-ranked Djokovic 6-7 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (5) after more than 3 1/2 hours on Saturday to reach the Madrid Open final. Alcaraz became the first player to beat Nadal and Djokovic at the same clay-court event. He converted his third match point in front of a raucous home crowd on the Caja Mágica center court. AP

Foreign fund exodus

19.5 The % by which foreign funds' ownership in domestic equities fell in March 2022, the lowest in the past three years. March alone saw the sixth consecutive month of foreign portfolio investors (FPI) outflows, which was the most severe since March 2020 on the back of the elevated inflation led by supply side issues. Significantly, the share loss of FPIs has been well corrected by the steeply rising ownership of the stocks by domestic funds, who pumped in $6 billion in March and $14.6 billion in FY22. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation report

How will the redrawing of electoral boundaries affect the people of J&K? Does it set the stage for elections?

THE GIST

- On May 5, 2022 the Jammu & Kashmir Delimitation Commission submitted its final report, two years after it was appointed to redraw the electoral boundaries in J&K.
- After the final draft by the Commission, six additional Assembly seats are earmarked for Jammu (revised to 43) and one for Kashmir (revised to 47).
- The Centre will now fix a date from which the order will come into effect. Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra will then rationalise the polling stations and revise the electoral rolls.

SUMEDA

The story so far: After multiple objections and extensions, the J&K Delimitation Commission submitted its final report on May 5, 2022, two years after it was appointed to redraw the electoral boundaries in Jammu and Kashmir as per the mandate set by the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. In its order, a notification of which was published in the Gazette of India, the three-member panel carved out additional six Assembly seats for the Jammu region and one for the Kashmir valley as per the Act. The final order of the Commission has set the stage for elections in the erstwhile State that last held Assembly polls in 2014.

What is delimitation?

Delimitation is the process of redrawing boundaries of the Lok Sabha or Assembly constituencies, the Election Commission of India states. The process is carried out in accordance with changes in the demographic status of a State or Union Territory. Delimitation is done by a Delimitation Commission or Boundary Commission.

The orders of the independent body cannot be questioned before any court. In the past, Delimitation Commissions were set up in 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002. Before the abrogation of Article 370 that accorded a special status to J&K, delimitation of its Assembly seats was carried out by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution and the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957. The delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies, meanwhile, was governed by the Constitution.

What is the J&K Delimitation Commission?

The last time a delimitation exercise was carried out in Jammu and Kashmir was in 1995, based on the 1981 Census. Jammu and Kashmir was under President's rule at that time. There was no Census in 1991 in J&K due to the tense situation in the valley. In 2001, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly passed a law to put the delimitation process on hold till 2026. The Centre set up a Delimitation Commission in March 2020, six months after the State of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated and reorganised as the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, was tasked with delimiting the Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the UT of J&K based on the 2011 Census and in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 and the Delimitation Act, 2002.

The panel was given a year to complete the delimitation plan but was given two extensions. After considering submissions and considering factors like "geographical features, communication means, public convenience and contiguity of areas", the Delimitation Commission released its final report on May 5.

What are the key takeaways from the final report?

First, J&K is split into two divisions, with Jammu having 37 Assembly seats and Kashmir 46. After the Commission's final draft, six additional Assembly seats are earmarked for Jammu (revised to 43) and one for Kashmir (revised to 47). The total number of Assembly seats in the UT will increase from 83 to 90.

Second, the Commission has recommended the Centre to nominate at least two Kashmiri Pandits to the Legislative Assembly.

Third, the panel has proposed nine seats for the Scheduled Tribes (STs). These will include six in Jammu (Budhal, Gulabgarh, Surankote, Rajouri, Mendhar, Thanamandi) and three in the valley (Gurez, Kangan, Kokernag). Seven seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the Jammu region.

Fourth, the Commission has also recommended that the government consider giving displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir representation in the Assembly through nomination.

Fifth, in its final order, the Commission has noted that it has considered the "Jammu & Kashmir region as one single Union Territory", and merged Rajouri and Poonch (from Jammu division) with the Anantnag constituency in the Kashmir region. The new constituency has been renamed as Kishtwar-Rajouri.

Sixth, the Commission has said it renamed 13 constituencies considering public sentiment in the region. The order shows that in Kashmir, the names of Gulmarg (from Tangmarg), Hazratbal, Zadibal, Lal Chowk, Eidgah have been restored. In the Jammu region, the name of the Gulabgarh constituency has been restored.

The final order of the Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir holds a lot of political significance. The completion of the delimitation exercise will pave the way for Assembly elections – a crucial step in the possible restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had stated earlier this year that the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be restored "once the situation becomes normal".

The Commission has added seven more Assembly seats, keeping the 2011 census as the basis. With this, Jammu with a population of 53 lakh (43% of the total population of 122 crore) will have 47% seats, while Kashmir which has a population of 68 lakh (56%) will have 52% of the seats.

The new constituency has five ST Assembly segments from the Jammu region. In J&K, Gujjar and Bakarwals form the ST community which is 11.9% of the total population, as per the 2011 census. This restructuring is likely to have an electoral impact.

Who criticised the Commission?

Regional political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, barring the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), have slammed the Commission for acting as an "extension of the BJP". Rejecting the recommendations, former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti termed the proposal as another means to disempower the people of J&K.

Ms. Mufti's Peoples Democratic Party had boycotted both visits of the Commission to the UT. Her party colleague, Naeem Akhtar, alleged that elections have been rigged even before voting. "It's another sad chapter of history written by the rulers sitting in New Delhi," he told *The Hindu*.

Towards an election: The completion of the delimitation exercise will pave the way for Assembly elections – a crucial step in the possible restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. • GETTY IMAGES

The National Conference (NC) claimed that the final order was an attempt to help the BJP get an advantage in elections. The NC has been critical of the Commission and had boycotted it before the intervention of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Peoples Conference and Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) have also expressed their disappointment. The Congress said the proposal of six additional seats to Jammu and one to Kashmir "smacks of pre-determined erroneous assessment". The BJP, meanwhile, has said it is happy with the panel for "doing a great job".

What lies ahead?

The Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir has issued a notification of its final order in the Gazette of India. As per rules, the report has been published in newspapers.

The Centre will now fix a date from which the delimitation order will come into effect. Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra told *The Hindu* that the EC will then rationalise the polling stations and revise the electoral rolls. This will pave the way for the much-awaited first Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir after being stripped of its special status in 2019.

With inputs from Peerzada Ashiq

EXPLAINER

What does Sinn Féin's victory mean for Northern Ireland?

What is the Good Friday Agreement? Will there be changes in the Northern Ireland Protocol?

VASUNDHARA SIRNATE

The story so far: Northern Ireland came into existence in 1921 when Ireland was partitioned by the Government of Ireland Act, 1920 passed by the British parliament. Sectarian tensions between the Protestants and Catholics led to a 30-year period of militant strife, called The Troubles, which began in the late 1960s and continued until the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Sinn Féin, since 1921, never won a decisive vote.This changed on May 7, 2022 as it was declared that Sinn Féin had won 27 seats out of 90 or 29% of the preference vote, while its closest unionist competitor, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), dropped its seat tally to 25. The right-wing DUP haemorrhaged voters that were mostly picked up by its hardline right-wing competitor, the Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV). These important shifts have raised concerns in Northern Ireland about the future of its union with the United Kingdom. How did Northern Ireland get to this point in history?

When did the Good Friday Agreement come into existence?

The Good Friday Agreement came into existence in April 1998. It was constructed in a manner that would be favourable to the rights and political representation of both Protestant and Catholic communities in Northern Ireland with the aim to eliminate violence. The Agreement recognised the legitimacy of both republican and loyalist demands and institutionalised a system of devolved government, power-sharing and elections to the unicameral local assembly (called Stormont) using the principle of Single Transferable Vote to ensure proportional representation. Any MLA elected to the Stormont has to declare themselves "unionist", "nationalist" or "other". Typically, the largest designations tend to be unionist or nationalist. For instance, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and the Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) are unionist parties. Similarly, Sinn Féin and the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) are considered nationalists.

The First Minister and Deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland have to be picked. Both have the same powers but are not supposed to be from the same party or same designated camp. This means that no government can be formed in Stormont without the mandatory combination of the two largest parties from across designations.

How did Brexit impact the electoral results in Northern Ireland?

Britain's messy divorce from the European Union (EU), better known as Brexit, impacted relations between Northern Ireland and the U.K. In 2019, the U.K. and the EU agreed to the Northern Irish Protocol wherein a trade-and-customs sea border was created between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K. Further, the rationale for the Protocol was that establishing a trade-and-customs border on the island between North and South was a sure way to stoke nationalist ire that could undermine the Good Friday Agreement's commitment to peace and consociationalism. While the Protocol is popular with nationalists, it proved to be immensely unpopular with unionist parties in Northern Ireland as they felt that the U.K. was pacifying nationalist sentiments. In 2021, violence broke out in Belfast's Sandy Row loyalist neighbourhood and a loyalist paramilitary group withdrew support to the Good Friday Agreement. In February 2022, Paul Givan from the DUP resigned as First Minister, which meant that the Deputy First Minister from Sinn Féin, Michelle O'Neill, also lost her position.

In the assembly elections that have recently concluded, it is clear that the Protocol led to shifts in the voting patterns as it became one of the many points of polarisation in Northern Ireland. The parties in favour of the Protocol, like Sinn Féin, improved their vote counts. However, voters were also taking other factors into consideration. Northern Ireland's working-class voters are facing inflation and a cost-of-living crisis. The National Health Service (NHS) in Northern Ireland is struggling financially and is slow to provide healthcare with many waiting a year for critical medical procedures. A shift in traditional sectarian voting patterns is also rooted in these situations of uncertainty that voters are experiencing.

Will Northern Ireland have a new government?

As mentioned before, there can be no government in Northern Ireland unless each of the largest nationalist and unionist parties comes on board to form the government. The Sinn Féin cannot form a government unless the unionist DUP, which is the second-largest party in this election, agrees to do so as well. The requirement is for a First Minister from Sinn Féin and the Deputy First Minister from the DUP. The DUP, which has its own internal divisions, is unlikely to support a Sinn Féin-led government in protest against the Northern Irish Protocol. Jeffrey Donaldson, the DUP leader, has said that while he respects the results, his party will not participate in power-sharing until the issues with the Northern Irish Protocol are addressed by Boris Johnson's government. On the other hand, Sinn Féin has not talked down the possibility of a border poll that would be a precursor to Irish reunification. This has unsettled unionist voters.

In February 2022, the Northern Ireland (Ministers, Elections and Petitions of Concern) Act 2022 came into force to restore faith in the devolved government process in Northern Ireland. Under this, if a First Minister and a Deputy First Minister have not been appointed after four consecutive, six-week periods of negotiations, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has to propose a date for a new assembly election. It remains to be seen if it will come to this point.

Vasundhara Sirnate is a political scientist and journalist

THE GIST

- Since 1921, Sinn Féin never won a decisive vote. But on May 7, 2022, it was declared that Sinn Féin had won 27 seats out of 90 or 29% of the preference vote.
- The requirement is for a First Minister from Sinn Féin and the Deputy First Minister from the DUP. But the DUP is unlikely to support a Sinn Féin-led government in protest against the Northern Irish Protocol.
- If they are not appointed after four consecutive, six-week periods of negotiations, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has to propose a date for a new assembly election.

THE HINDU
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, MAY. 09		
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36	
RISE 12:37	SET 00:53	
TUESDAY, MAY. 10		
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36	
RISE 13:29	SET 01:35	
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 11		
RISE 05:56	SET 18:37	
RISE 14:19	SET 02:15	

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	26
Mysuru	33	22
Bengaluru	33	22

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be warm and humid. Spell of rain and thundershower with gusty winds are likely at some places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A warm and humid weather to prevail.Night also will be comfortable. Thunderstorm may occur.

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Over a year after being ready, Sir MV terminal yet to be opened

No logic in further delaying train services from the terminal, say rail activists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

It has been over a year since the swanky Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal at Byappanahalli has been ready. But the inordinate delay in throwing it open to the public has drawn the ire of railway activists and citizens who have demanded that South Western Railway (SWR) should not delay any further in commencing commercial services from the terminal. They say non-utilisation of the terminal, for which ₹300 crore has been spent, speaks volumes about ignoring public interest.

Though the terminal was ready last year itself, the SWR was not in a position to start commercial operations as there was no good road connectivity. Last year, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) expedited the work on the roads connecting the terminal from Old Madras Road side and Banaswadi. After years of delay, the railway overbridge (RoB) at Byappanahalli was opened for motorists in January. However, it has been over five months since the opening of the RoB but the SWR has shown no signs of starting train services from the terminal.

Last month, there were reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would inaugurate the terminal and lay the foundation stone for suburban railway project in the city. But the Prime Minister's visit to the State got postponed. "After the RoB linking Old Madras Road with the terminal opened for motorists, everyone started asking what is holding back the SWR from opening the terminal. Every time, it has been projected that the terminal will be inaugurated after the Prime Minister's office gives the date. In the interest of the general public, elected representatives should take up the matter with the authorities and start train services from this point," said rail activist K.N. Krishna Prasad.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal at Byappanahalli has been built at a cost of ₹300 crore. •FILE PHOTO

Last year, the terminal hit the headlines for its passenger amenities that include centralised air-conditioning and an 'airport-like' look. Last September, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during his inspection said train operations would be commenced after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike finds solutions to connectivity issues.

"Infrastructure and services should go hand in hand. In the case of the Byappanahalli terminal, infrastructure has been made ready by spending hundreds of crores but the facility has not been thrown open for public use. If the commercial operations are getting delayed just for want of formal inauguration, it speaks volumes about the importance being accorded to the people of the city. Similarly, in the case of the suburban railway, the project work has not started even after one-and-a-half years. These kinds of delays cost the city heavily," Rajkumar Dugar, convener of Citizens for Citizens.

Abhishek R. said, "Citizens are not getting a valid reason as to why commercial operation has not begun from this point. Operating long-distance trains from the Byappanahalli terminal will help in decongesting Yeshwantpur and KSR Bengaluru stations."

An official of the SWR said, "The terminal is ready for commercial operations. When it comes to the inaugural date, the decision will be taken at the highest level." When contacted, MP for Bengaluru Central P.C. Mohan said he would meet the Divisional Railway Manager regarding the issue of starting commercial operations.

> **If the commercial operations are getting delayed just for want of formal inauguration, it speaks volumes about the importance being accorded to the people of the city.**
> RAJKUMAR DUGAR, convener of Citizens for Citizens

> **In the interest of the general public, elected representatives should take up the matter with the authorities and start train services from this point.**
> K.N. KRISHNA PRASAD, rail activist

Sankey Tank Bund Road widening to start soon

Stretch to be widened by 15 metres at a cost of ₹60 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has revived the long-pending Sankey Tank Bund Road widening project in Malleswaram, first proposed in 2011. The newly appointed BBMP Chief Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath, on Sunday inspected the site and announced that the State Government had cleared the project and tenders would be called soon.

The Commissioner instructed officials to complete the tendering process at the earliest and begin the work. The narrow stretch of the road between Bhashyam Circle and Malleswaram 18th Cross will be widened by 15 metres at an estimated cost of ₹60 crore, Mr. Nath said.

Though the BBMP has tried to begin work on the widening project multiple times since 2011, it had to backtrack owing to vociferous protests by environmental activists and residents, who are opposed to the felling of nearly 30 trees for the project. However, Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, also the local MLA, has been championing the project to ease the traffic bottleneck in the area.

Inspection

On Sunday, Mr. Nath also inspected several other ongoing works. During his inspection of the integrated elevated project being constructed between Yelahanka Police Station junction and BWSSB junction in Yelahanka New Town, Mr. Nath instructed the officials concerned to implement the project without causing much inconvenience on motorists.

K-100 project

While inspecting Koramangala Valley Raja Kaluve Development and Maintenance (K-100) project, the official said sewage coming from households had been diverted. On a stretch of 6 km, *raja kaluve* silt had been excavated and steps had been taken for harvesting rainwater. On the remaining stretch of 3.6 km, work is in progress.

"From J.C. Nagar to Shantinagar bus station, for a distance of 1.5 km, sidewalls of storm-water drains, beautification works, pedestrian paths, and other works are in progress. Six bridges have been constructed across the *raj kaluve* and construction of three more bridges is in progress," said the Commissioner.

He instructed officials to remove the UGD pipes and other construction material blocking the movement of the vehicles on Jayamahal Road. The BBMP is widening the road from Mehkri Circle toward Cantonment. Railway Station.

Boy run over by car; driver arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A four-year-old boy was killed and his father injured when a car knocked them down at Somasundarapalya in Electronics city on Saturday.

The boy, Avinash, was walking along with his father, Hanumanthappa, a construction labourer, to a nearby shop to buy groceries when the accident occurred.

The accused, Andanaiah, 35, was overspeeding and driving rashly, and knocked down the father-son duo, the police said. While Hanumanthappa fell on the other side, the boy came under the wheels of the car and sustained severe injuries. Passers-by rushed the boy to a nearby private hospital, where he was declared brought dead. Hanumanthappa, who sustained minor injuries, is being treated. The police arrested the car driver and booked him under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code for causing death due to negligence.

Two caught smuggling gold paste in innerwear

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport on Sunday arrested two men from Kozhikode, Kerala, who attempted to smuggle in gold worth ₹97.4 lakh, concealing it in custom-stitched undergarments.

According to the officials, while one suspect, aged 26, landed from Abu Dhabi on Sunday, the other, aged 24, had landed a few hours earlier. The Customs team conducted passenger profiling of those disembarking from the UAE flight and caught the duo.

In both cases, the sleuths frisked the smugglers to find unusual undergarments. Upon being interrogated, the suspects handed over the pouch with gold paste. The suspect caught on Sunday was attempting to smuggle in 918 grams of gold, estimated to be worth ₹47.3 lakh, while the second person arrested was carrying 966 grams, worth ₹50.08 lakh, sources said. Further probe is on to find out if they are part of an international smuggling racket.

A mother at work

Lack of a support system at home forces Gayatri to bring her child to her workplace. A scene at the pharmacy where she works at R.T. Nagar in Bengaluru on Sunday, which was celebrated as Mother's Day. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

Youth held for murder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Yelahanka New Town police have arrested a 19-year-old for killing a wall painter.

The accused, Balakrishna, who was drunk, went to a roadside shop to buy snacks and started misbehaving with the shopkeeper last Wednesday, the police said. The deceased, Ravi Kiran, who was standing nearby, objected to this. During a heated argument that ensued, Balakrishna took a brick and attacked Ravi Kiran on the head. He sustained severe injuries and was rushed to a hospital, where he died on Saturday. Based on a complaint, the police arrested Balakrishna.

Squall in parts of city uproots several trees

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A squall in southeast and southern parts of the city on Sunday evening disrupted life. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike control room reported at least 30 cases of tree branches and trees crashing in these parts of the city in a matter of two hours.

Tree-fall was reported in Bommanahalli, Hulimavu, Agara, BTM Layout, HSR Layout, Konankunte Cross, Singasandra, and other areas. At two spots, trees fell on parked vehicles, damaging them. However, no one was injured. In HSR Layout alone, at least seven trees and tree branches fell.

Several electricity poles were also uprooted. As many as 35 poles were broken in HSR Layout and three in BTM Layout, resulting in widespread power disruption, Bescom said.

Power supply was disrupted in Kengeri, Bandemutt, Ramohalli, Kumbalgod, Jayanagara, Puttenahalli, and HSR Layout, according to Bescom said.

READER'S MAIL

Allow UPI mode of payment

Sir, – There is an entrance fee for visitors to Lalbagh, one of the tourist spots in Bengaluru. However, there is no digital mode of payment and the only way to pay is by cash. The authorities should ensure that at Lalbagh and every other tourist spot at least UPI mode of payment is accepted for paying the entry fee.

G. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

Skywalk at Kengeri TTMC

Sir, – Apropos of 'Skywalk at Kengeri TTMC hits a roadblock' (*The Hindu*, May 5).

Money invested for public safety by the BMRCL and the BBMP in coordination with the Bengaluru Traffic Police should not go waste if the project is implemented strictly.

As stated by the traffic police, a passage has been kept open for pedestrians to cross the road to reach the TTMC/metro station. But the problem is everyone would prefer to cross the road through this passage without using the skywalk.

Then the purpose of erecting the skywalk will be defeated on the lines of the one opposite Santosh cinema on Kempe Gowda Road.

In the larger interest of road users, I request the traffic police to close the passage and advise people to cross the road near HP petrol station signal, as this will save the manpower for the traffic police and the skywalk would be fully utilised.

N. NANJUNDASWAMY,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE, ASSAM
RUDRA SINGHA SPORTS COMPLEX, DISPUR, GUWAHATI - 781006

No: DSY/S/Manpower/KISCE/25/2022/8 Dated: 6th May, 2022

PRESS NOTICE FOR RECRUITMENT TO VARIOUS CONTRACTUAL POSTS IN KHELO INDIA STATE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (KISCE), ASSAM

The Directorate of Sports & Youth Welfare, Government of Assam, invites applications from the eligible citizens of India for filling up different vacant posts in Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE), Assam, at State Sports Academy, Sarusajai Sports Complex, Guwahati, Assam, on purely temporary and contractual basis.

The detailed advertisement and Application Form can be downloaded from this Directorate's website: **dsyw.assam.gov.in[.]** The applicants should apply through the official email ID: recruitment.kisceassam@gmail.com only. Application submitted offline mode will not be accepted.

Director
Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam
& Chairman, Selection Committee

Janasanyog /D/1788/22

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Office of the The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Haveri Division, Haveri. Phone:08375-237129, email: ee.rws.hvr@gmail.com

No. E.E/ R. D.W&S.D/H V R /JJM/ANUR/TND-02/2022-23/182 Date: 05. 05.2022

Short-Term Tender Notification No-02/2022-23 (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Haveri District, Karnataka invites tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the below detailed work on DBOT basis. Two Cover document procedure as per Rule 28 of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 shall be followed. The Tenderers are required to submit all the documents required for the Tender through e-Procurement mode, through portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (Manual submission of Tenders or documents is not allowed and such submissions shall be ignored and Tender of a Tenderer making such submissions shall be rejected as disqualified).

TIME SCHEDULE

1) Downloading of document through e portal : **06-05-2022 to 21-05-2022 up to 17:30 PM** 2) Last Date &Time for tender queries/ Clarifications : **16-05-2022 Time: 17:30 PM** 3) Pre-bid Meeting at C.E, R. D.W & S. D, Bangalore : **17-05-2022 Time: 11:00 AM 4)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids : **21-05-2022 Time: 17:30 PM 5)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening : **23-05-2022 Time: 10:00 AM 6)** Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening : **27-05-2022 Time: 10:00 AM.**

Name of work : Multi Village Drinking water supply facilities to 51 rural habitations in Byadagi (18 Village of 20 habitations), Ranebennur (13 Village of 13 habitations), Haveri (17 Village of 17 habitations) & Hirekerur (1Village of 1 habitations) Taluk of Haveri Dist: Karnataka State, Country - India, from Tungabhadra reservoir near Nagenahalli, Village through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) mode under Jal Jeevan Mission INDENT No: RWSSD/2022-23/ WS/WORK_ INDENT 40352

Part A - Design, Build, Testing and Commissioning:

a. Head works including Intake well, connecting pipeline, inspection chambers, Jackwell, foot bridge and pump house. **b.** Raw water pumping main up to water treatment plant. **c.** Water treatment plant and associated buildings / facilities. **d.** Treated water storage tank and Pumping station with pumping machinery. **e.** Treated water pumping mains / Feeder mains / bulk water transmission mains / bulk gravity mains from WTP to MBR / BPT / IPSs / ZBTs. **f.** Construction of Master Balancing Reservoirs, Zonal Balancing Reservoirs **g.** Intermediate pumping stations/lifting stations wherever required along with sumps **h.** ZBTs for supplying treated water to habitations **i.** Installation of Bulk water meters at all the outlet points in the water supply system to measure the Water produced and supplied. **j.** Installation of required appurtenances to ensure the equitable water supply at all outlets. **k.** Electro mechanical works as per requirement at all the location of pumping stations, IPS etc. **l.** Instrumentation and control, automation, operation management system (SCADA) etc. **m.** Trial Run. E.M.D (INR):**105.00 Lakhs*.** Tender Processing Fee : **as per e-procurement portal.** Period of Completion : **18 months.**

Part B - Operation & Maintenance : Operation & maintenance of the facilities created under Part A for a period of 5 years &subsequently transfer the same at the end of tenure in working condition Period of Completion: **60 months after successful completion of Part A**

*The Tenders must be accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of **Rs.1,05,00,000 (Rupees One Crore Five Lakhs Only),** shall be paid online through e - Procurement Portal using any of the Payment Modes viz., Credit Card, Direct Debit, National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT), Over the Counter (OTC).

Note: Technical bid conditions and general conditions are to be obtained from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Haveri

DIPR/Haveri/54/2022-23/Deshpande Publicity

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only Through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number		Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	South East-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB /159/2022-23 Dated:05.05.2022	1.	₹ 43,02,776/- / ₹ 86,100/-	16.05.2022 upto 5:00 pm	17.05.2022 after 5:30 pm
2.			2.	₹ 20,62,087/- / ₹ 50,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
3.	DC & BVM	BWSSB/EE(DC&BVM) D/PB/BVM/238/2022-23 Dated: 05.05.2022	₹ 15,92,070/- / ₹ 39,802/-	23.05.2022 upto 4:00 pm	25.05.2022 at 12:00 noon
4.		BWSSB/EE(DC&BVM) D/PB/BVM/136/2022-23 Dated: 26.04.2022	₹ 44,02,064/- / ₹ 88,041/-		
5.		BWSSB/EE(DC&BVM) D/PB/BVM/236/2022-23 Dated: 05.05.2022	₹ 18,93,023/- / ₹ 47,326/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (DC&BVM)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask — 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing — Maintain Hand Hygiene

DIPR:/421/2022-23

भारतीय खाद्य निगम
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE No. 15, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041

No. QC13(1)/serviceproviders/2022 Date: 09.05.2022

ई-निविदा सूचना/e-Tender Notice

"www.fci.gov.in" "https://eproce.gov.in/eprocure/app" ... 1,06,488 ... 30.05.2022 ... 2.00 ... "https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app" ...

Online Tender invited for **ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR PRESERVATION OF FOODGRAINS AT BSC WHITEFIELD, D.O. BANGALORE, (CAPACITY 1,06,488 MT) THROUGH SKILLED MAN-POWER** under "Two Bid System" through CPPP portal and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app"** Bid should be submitted online within 2.00 PM on 30.05.2022. For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit & **"https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app".**

General Manager (KTK)

THE HINDU
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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1978/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 53 • No. 109

THE HINDU
Text & Context

ABSTRACT

Who should govern our data?

Data should not be the exclusive property of one person or company but a form of social commons which needs to be properly redistributed

JOAN SONY CHERIAN

THE GIST

- The Internet and its data lie in the hands of very large tech companies. The qwnership of data has become the currency of the future.
- The importance of data accumulation in the digital economy cannot be overstated. With the advent of 'smart' devices and related technologies, the possibility of data goes beyond that of the virtual to even the physical and social.
- Public agencies have an 'authority access' in the raw non-personal data and aggregate non-personal data held by other private players.

Gurumurthy, A., Chami, N. (2022). Governing the Resource of Data: To what end and for Whom?, Data Governance Network Working Paper 23.

When the Internet was just about taking off, techno-enthusiasts ushered in hopes of a world where knowledge and information would be abundant and free from the hands of the elite. The Internet would be democratic, giving everyone open and equitable access.

Yet almost two decades later, this dream is barely alive. The Internet and its data, almost exclusively, lie in the hands of very large tech companies. The ownership of data has become the currency of the future. Many governments and inter-regional entities have been trying to undo this indiscriminate accumulation of data as well as protect data privacy by conceptualising different forms of data governance systems. The authors of the paper, "Governing the Resource of Data: To what end and for Whom?", analyse the different approaches to data governance. They argue that data needs to be fundamentally understood as a form of social commons and that there should be thorough re-structuring of the data economy. They propose a semi-commons approach as the most pragmatic way to govern data in order to foster innovation and ensure equitable access.

Platform capitalists

A handful of 'platform capitalists' now control the Internet. Platform capitalists are those who take advantage of their first mover privilege by rapidly expanding across the digital landscape. They then offer themselves as a platform for third party players for a price (Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, etc.). These companies retain and expand their control through data accumulation and extraction.

The importance of data accumulation in the digital economy cannot be overstated. With the advent of the Internet of Things (IoT), 'smart' devices and related technologies, the possibility of data goes beyond that of the virtual to even the physical and social. Control over such data can even predict behavioural patterns. Platform capitalists have unbridled control over the data economy leading to exclusion and under-optimisation of the data for common good. It forestalls the prospects of smaller businesses and data communities. Additionally, since most of these companies are based in the West, it leaves developing countries to fend for themselves, left out of their own data's immense possibilities and uses. The commodification of data has led to a finders-keepers logic which undermines human rights, encourages illegal data mining and profiling.

State regulators have been trying to find a solution to better re-distribute and govern data structures. An approach which is currently in vogue, is the European Union's individualist policy where individuals have ownership rights of their own personal data (for concerns on privacy) but their non-personal data (data that does not have any personal identifiers) is seen as the property of the data processors/collectors. There are multiple issues within this approach. First of all, assuming that there is no privacy risk with non-personal data is flawed. To quote the authors' example, the data collected by smart energy systems, temperature and motion sensors seem harmless. But when they move up the data value chain, they hold the potential for smart home manufacturers to infer a lot of socio-behavioural insights that can profile individual households when clubbed with other data sets. Again, by letting data collectors have ownership rights over non-personal data keeps data within the bounds of the finders-keepers logic. It also does not offer an answer to how data can be equally redistributed.

Platform capitalists have unbridled control over the data economy leading to exclusion and under-optimisation of the data for common good

Another approach is that of data stewardship. Data stewardship "refers to any institutional arrangement where a group of people come together to pool their data and put in place a collective governance process for determining who has access to this data, under what conditions, and to whose benefit." It can also take the model of a public-private partnership where private data can be used for governance issues and policies. The EU's proposal for "data altruism organisations" which will enable the pooling of non-personal data for non-profit, "general interest" purposes and the World Economic Forum's 'Data for Common Purpose' initiative are plausible examples of such an arrangement. By creating such privacy-focused data forums, the goal is to increase data-based value creation for optimum use. While it would be a marked improvement from platform capitalism, it remains to be seen whether these collectives can really unlock data's potential. For one, such initiatives would need proper state-of-the-art infrastructure. Most countries in the Global South would then be at a huge disadvantage as they do not have the adequate equipment or resources. Data stewardship remains, therefore, an ideal solution while not exactly pragmatic.

The semi-commons approach

Data has three layers. The semantic layer which has the encoded information. The syntactic layer which represents the information as machine-readable datasets and the physical layer which is the infrastructure through which one extracts data. An ideal data governance structure should prevent the possessors of the syntactic and physical layers from having exclusive rights over the semantic layer. A semi-commons approach to data governance seeks to balance public and private claims to data. It fundamentally recognises data as social commons where first movers do not get exclusive rights.

Data holders and seekers

Data holders – be it private, public, or altruistic organisations can only have non-exclusive rights over the base layer of data (raw non-processed data). They can use and generate profit through it but are required to share data as other data seekers are entitled to accessibility in a semi-commons approach. Data seekers can have access to raw non-personal data and aggregate non-personal data (after due safeguards are met for irreversible anonymisation). However, this access is not an unconditional right. Different data seekers have different rights over the kind of data being sought.

For example, individual data subjects can access their personal data and non-personal data. Public agencies have an 'authority access' in the raw non-personal data and aggregate non-personal data held by other private players. Authority access refers to "entitlements of public agencies to access data on the grounds of fulfilling legitimate public policy functions, backed by specific legislation". Private organisations can conditionally access raw and aggregate non-personal data. These conditionalities will have to be streamlined with the larger economic and social policies of a country.

A semi-commons approach would need a thorough re-ordering of the current way in which data is hoarded and kept under the exclusive ownership of platform capitalists. One would need to build an equitable data market which encourages production through co-operation. The authors give the example of the Barcelona municipality which is building a smart city by creating a public-funded data infrastructure.

Here, the public is equipped with smart contracts and cryptographic tools which allow them to directly contribute data to the city data commons on their own terms. Local companies and co-operatives are also given access to the city data commons. It also mandates data to be in machine readable format with open-source APIs. Furthermore, a semi-commons approach would help foster data-driven solutions and innovation in sectors which desperately need it. For example, NITI Aayog had commented that the agriculture sector, which desperately needs more data-driven innovation, would only have a mellow response from private AI players due to low profitably in comparison to other sectors.

Therefore, a semi-commons approach, in order to be actualised, calls for a thorough change of perspective wherein data should not be thought of the exclusive property of one person or company but a form of social commons which needs to be properly regulated and redistributed.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Stress is on the second syllable

'A piece of advice which I'll never forget'

S. UPENDRAN

"Welcome back! How was the conference in Singapore? Did you enjoy it?"

"There were a few minor problems with the accommodation, but otherwise things were good. We really enjoyed ourselves in the evenings. Perhaps what was more important was that by and large most people found the conference useful."

"By and large? What does the expression mean?"

"It basically means all things considered."

"In other words, you're saying that everything considered, most people thought the conference was useful?"

"That's right! On the whole, everyone thought they had learnt something new."

"I see. How about this example? We have a new VC, and he's very strict. By and large, the students are very unhappy with him."

"That's a very good example. Driving in Singapore is a very enjoyable experience. By and large, everyone follows traffic rules."

"Which is the exact opposite of what happens in our country. In India, by and large, everyone ignores traffic rules."

"I'd say quite a few people aren't even aware of them."

"That's true. Tell me, what's the difference between advice and advise? I know we've talked about the difference before, but I keep forgetting."

"Understandable, I guess. According to Google, quite a few people have a problem with these two words. It's a pair that is frequently looked up. 'Advice' is a noun. The advice the coach gave the batsman proved to be useful."

"I would like some advice about how to deal with the problem."

"That's a good example. Remember, the word 'advices' does not exist. One can talk about 'a piece of advice' or 'pieces of advice'. But not 'advices'. When I was young, my father gave me a piece of advice which I'll never forget."

"The only person who ever gave me advice when I was young was my uncle."

"Uncles are famous for their advice. My uncle shared several excellent pieces of advice."

"Like what? What did he..."

"We'll talk about them later. Let's stick to advice for the time being. Remember, the final 'ce' in advice sounds like the 's' in 'sit' and 'set'."

"In other words, the 'ice' in 'advice' rhymes with 'rice', 'ice' and 'dice'."

"Very good! As for advise, it's always used as a verb."

"My doctor advised me to lose weight."

"In your case, I would say that's pretty good advice. You do need to knock off some weight."

"I know. Tell me, how is the final 'se' in this word pronounced? Is it the same as..."

"The final 'se' in 'advise' is pronounced like the 'z' in 'zip' and 'zoo'."

"In other words, the second syllable rhymes with 'size', 'eyes' and 'prize'."

"Exactly! And what's more, in both words, the stress is on the second syllable. The words are pronounced 'ed-VICE' and 'ed-VIZE'."

"But how do I remember which is the noun and which is the verb?"

"Good question. This is what I do to remember. In a dictionary, advice is listed before advise because the 'c' comes before 's'. Similarly, in the case of the words noun and verb."

"The word 'noun' comes before 'verb'."

"Exactly! So, 'advice' is the noun and 'advise' is the verb."

"I should try and remember this."

"A conference is a gathering of people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done."

-Fred Allen

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Since Northern Ireland is in the news, here is a quiz on people in popular culture related to the region in the United Kingdom.

1 Considered as one of the most talented and accomplished footballers to have never played in World Cup as he represented Northern Ireland, a minnow in world football, name this Belfast legend, winger and a Ballon D'Or winner who still retains the record of being among the top five goalscorers for Manchester United in all competitions.

2 The bulk of the filming locations in which popular fantasy series, especially for those scenes that were to be shot in temperate weather settings, were in Belfast and surrounding areas?

3 When the popular novels of Henning Mankell featuring the iconic inspector Kurt Wallander were adapted into English films, which Belfast born actor was chosen first to play that role?

4 A Provisional Irish Republican Army militant who was arrested for orchestrating a bombing attack, this person went on to become a high profile prisoner who conducted a major hunger strike and his popularity helped him win a Parliamentary by-election in 1981. Name him

5 Which (then, exactly) 16-year-old cricketer from Belfast was the youngest to score a century in a One Day International, a record that was previously held by an Indian icon. Name the Indian batter as well.

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

◄ Identify this monument in Belfast that is associated with an iconic man-made colossus which was captained by Edward Smith and was the subject of a film that has won the most Oscars ever (tied with another film). •

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the first Asian stamp issued on July 1, 1852, by a Karachi postmaster. **Ans: Scinde Dawk**
2. What term is used for regular-issue stamps that pay postage for everyday mail. **Ans: Definitive Stamps**
3. What did the first postage stamp of independent India depict. **Ans: The National flag with the date of independence and the words 'Jai Hind'**
4. What honour has been given to the U.K. as the country's stamps don't feature something that all other sovereign countries' stamps have. **Ans: Name of the country. It has the monarch's likeness**
5. India is divided into nine postal zones. For whom is the ninth zone allotted? **Ans: To Army (APO) and Field (FPO) post offices**
6. Name countries that have 'Magyar Posta' and 'Helvetia' on postage stamps. **Ans: Hungary and Switzerland**
7. Which institution owns the world's most expensive stamp. **Ans: Stanley Gibbons**
Visual: The significance of the stamp in the context of Indian philately. **Ans: Henri Dunant was the first foreigner to be honoured on a post-independence Indian stamp**
Early Birds: Siddharth Chaturvedi | Arvind Kumar Sharma | Roushani Kalia | Gaurav Radhakrishnan | V. Siddhartha

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

The Corporation was established as 'Life Insurance Corporation of India' on September 1, 1956 under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. For details of change in the central office of the Corporation, see *"History and Certain Corporate Matters – Changes in central office of the Corporation"* on page 272 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated April 26, 2022 ("**RHP**").

Central office: Yogakshema, Jeevan Bima Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021, Maharashtra, India.

Contact Person: Pawan Agrawal, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; **Tel:** +91 22 2202 2079; **E-mail:** investors@licindia.com; **Website:** www.licindia.in; **IRDAI Registration number:** 512

OUR PROMOTER: THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF UP TO 221,374,920 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA ("THE CORPORATION" OR THE "ISSUER") THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 221,374,920 EQUITY SHARES BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ("SELLING SHAREHOLDER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE ("OFFER PRICE"), AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (THE "OFFER").

THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO 1,581,249 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO 0.025% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL), FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE(S) (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION") AND A RESERVATION OF UP TO 22,137,492 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO 0.35% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL) FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE POLICYHOLDER(S) ("POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION"). THE CORPORATION AND THE SELLING SHAREHOLDER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS ("BRLMS"), SHALL OFFER (I) A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% OF THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹ 45 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO THE RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS BIDDING IN THE RETAIL PORTION ("RETAIL DISCOUNT"), (II) A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% OF THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹ 45 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE(S) BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION ("EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT"), AND (III) A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% OF THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹ 60 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO THE ELIGIBLE POLICYHOLDER(S) BIDDING IN THE POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION ("POLICYHOLDER DISCOUNT"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION AND POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE 3.5% AND 3.13%, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF THE CORPORATION.

QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer

PRICE BAND: ₹ 902 TO ₹ 949 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH
A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 45 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS BIDDING IN THE RETAIL PORTION AND ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION.
A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 60 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE POLICYHOLDERS BIDDING IN THE POLICYHOLDER RESERVATION PORTION.
THE FLOOR PRICE IS 90.2 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 94.9 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES
BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 15 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 15 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER

Risks to Investors:

- For Fiscal 2019, Fiscal 2020, Fiscal 2021 and the nine months ended December 31, 2021, the Corporation had a market share of 66.4%, 66.2%, 64.1% and 61.6%, respectively, in terms of total premium in the Indian life insurance sector.
- The entire Net Proceeds will be paid to the President of India and the Corporation will not receive any proceeds of the Offer.
- Our individual agents procure most of our individual new business premiums. If we are unable to retain and recruit individual agents on a timely basis and at reasonable cost, there could be a material adverse effect on our results of operations.
- The Corporation is not a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and is established and governed as per the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder. Accordingly, the Corporation is not subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The Market capitalization / Embedded Value ratio based on Embedded Value as at September 30, 2021 for the Corporation at the upper end of the Price Band is 1.11, compared to the average industry peer group Market capitalization / Embedded Value of 3.41 (simple average basis). Potential investors may note that the Embedded Value of the Corporation could be sensitive to the equity markets given the size of the equity investment portfolio of the Corporation.
- Average Cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for the Selling Shareholder is ₹ 0.16 each and Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 949.
- Details of Acquisition of all Equity Shares transacted in last three years and one year:

Period	Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition (in ₹)	Upper end of the Price Band (₹ 949) is 'X' times the Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition	Range of Acquisition Price: Lowest Price-Highest Price (in ₹)
Last 1 year	0.16	5,931	Nil*-10.00**
Last 3 years	0.16	5,931	Nil*-10.00**

**Represents acquisition price of equity shares pursuant to bonus issue. **The paid-up equity capital of the Corporation was ₹ 1,000 million (provided held by the GoI) prior to amendment to the Life Insurance Corporation Act by the Finance Act, 2021 ("Amendment"). Pursuant to the Amendment, the Corporation was required, with the previous approval of the GoI, to issue Equity Shares to the GoI in consideration for the paid-up equity capital provided by the GoI as it stood before the coming into force of Section 131 of the Finance Act, 2021.*

- Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Fiscals 2021, 2020 and 2019 is 182.25%.
- The Ten Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 70 public issues in the past 3 years out of which 23 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME*

BID/OFFER CLOSES TODAY

**Note to Investors: (a) submission and revision in Bids shall be made till 3 p.m. IST today; (b) Bids by QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders shall be uploaded till 4 p.m. IST today; and (c) Bids by RIBs Bidding under Net Offer, Bids by Eligible Employee(s) and Eligible Policyholder(s) Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion and Policyholder Reservation Portion, respectively, shall be uploaded till 7 p.m. IST today*

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, the Corporation may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("**SCRR**") read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be allocated on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("**QIBs**", the "**QIB Portion**"). The Corporation has in consultation with the BRLMs, allocated up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("**Anchor Investor Portion**"), of which one-third was reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids having been received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price. Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to RIBs in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. All potential Bidders (except Anchor Investors) are required to mandatorily utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process providing details of their respective ASBA accounts, and UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism, if applicable, in which the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the SCSBs or under the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be, to the extent of respective Bid Amounts. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Offer through the ASBA process. For details, see "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 569 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk.

Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE CORPORATION AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: The Corporation, being established under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, does not have a memorandum of association or articles of association. The Corporation is governed under the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, the rules issued thereunder, and the Insurance Act and the regulations and guidelines issued by the IRDAI, each only to the extent applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION: Limited by shares.

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF THE CORPORATION AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of the Corporation is ₹ 250,000,000,000 divided into 25,000,000,000 equity shares of ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up Equity share capital of the Corporation is ₹ 63,249,977,010 divided into 6,324,997,701 equity shares of ₹ 10 each. For details of the capital structure, see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 92 of the RHP.

NAMES OF THE INITIAL SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE CORPORATION AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The Corporation, being established under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, does not have a memorandum of association or articles of association. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of the Corporation see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 92 of the RHP.

LISTING: The Equity Shares offered through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. The Corporation has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE and NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters each dated February 14, 2022. For the purposes of the Offer, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be BSE. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the RHP up to the Bid/ Offer Closing Date, see *"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"* on page 641 of the RHP.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities stated in the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 534 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE (The Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 536 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 537 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF IRDAI: The IRDAI does not undertake any responsibility for the financial soundness of the Corporation or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed in this connection. Any issuance of observation by the IRDAI under the LIC General Regulations shall not in any manner be deemed to be or serve as a validation of the representations by the Corporation in the offer document.

GENERAL RISKS: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of the Corporation and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the RHP. Specific attention of the investors is invited to *"Risk Factors"* beginning on page 24 of the RHP.

ASBA* | **Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!**

***Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to offers by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA below.**
Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI-Now available in ASBA for UPI Bidders.**
Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. UPI – Now available in ASBA for UPI Bidders applying through Registered Brokers, DPs & RTAs.
Retail Individual Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account.

**ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors (as defined in the RHP). UPI may be availed by RIBs, Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion, where made available by the broker through whom the Bidder is submitting the Bid, Eligible Policyholders bidding in the Policyholder Reservation Portion, where made available by the broker through whom the Bidder is submitting the Bid and Non-Institutional Bidders with an application size of up to ₹ 500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. Bidders who are Eligible Employees or Eligible Policyholders, as the case may be, are advised to confirm the same with his/her broker regarding availability of UPI mechanism prior to submission of Bids.*
*For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 569 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("**AIBI**"), the websites of BSE Limited ("**BSE**") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("**NSE**", and together with BSE, the "**Stock Exchanges**") and in the General Information Document. ASBA bid-cum application forms can be downloaded from the websites of Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in.*
***List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. For the list of UPI Apps and Banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI (https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=34) and (https://sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=40) respectively, as updated from time to time. Axis Bank Limited, HDFC Bank Limited and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited have been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer. For Offer related grievance or UPI related queries, investors may contact the BRLMs and Registrar to the Offer on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and E-mail id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in; Axis Bank Limited at Tel: +91 91670 06951/ 52, +91 022 6817 6300 and E-mail: churchgate.branchhead@axisbank.com, churchgate.operationshead@axisbank.com; HDFC Bank Limited at Tel: +91 022 3075 2927/ 28/ 2914 and E-mail: Siddharth.Jadhav@hdfcbank.com, prasanna.uchil@hdfcbank.com, neerav.desai@hdfcbank.com; Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited at Tel: +91 022 6605 6588/ 6713 2416 and E-mail: cmspo@kotak.com and the Registrar to the Offer at Tel: +91 40 6716 2222 and E-mail: lic.ipo@kfintech.com.*

For any Offer related queries, investors may write on E-mail: lic.ipo@kfintech.com or call on Toll-free number: 1800 3094 001 or Whatsapp by typing 'Hi' to: +91 91000 94099.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited
1st Floor, 27 BKC, Plot No. C-27, 'G' Block
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East)
Mumbai 400 051 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4336 0000
E-mail: lic.ipo@kotak.com
Website: https://investmentbank.kotak.com
Investor Grievance ID: kmccredressal@kotak.com
Contact Person: Ganesh Rane
SEBI Registration Number: INM000008704

Axis Capital Limited
1st Floor, Axis House, C-2 Wadia
International Centre, P.B. Marg, Worli
Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4325 2183/84
E-mail: lic.ipo@axiscap.in
Website: www.axiscapital.co.in
Investor Grievance ID: complaints@axiscap.in
Contact Person: Mayuri Arya
SEBI Registration Number: INM000012029

BofA Securities India Limited
Ground Floor, "A" Wing, One BKC, "G" Block
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East),
Mumbai 400 051 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6632 8000/ 8411
E-mail: dg.lici_ipo@bofa.com
Website: www.ml-india.com
Investor Grievance ID: dg.india_merchantbanking@bofa.com
Contact Person: Abhay Agarwal
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011625

Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited
1202, 12th Floor, First International Finance Centre,
G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East)
Mumbai 400 098, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6175 9999; **E-mail:** licindia.ipo@citi.com
Investor Grievance ID: investors.cgmib@citi.com
Website: www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm
Contact Person: Huzefa Bodabhaiwala
SEBI Registration Number: INM000010718

Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited
951-A, Rational House
Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi
Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6616 9000
E-mail: licipo@gs.com
Website: www.goldmansachs.com
Investor Grievance ID: india-client-support@gs.com
Contact Person: Chirag Jasani
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011054

ICICI Securities Limited
ICICI Venture House
Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi
Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6807 7100
E-mail: lic.ipo@icicisecurities.com
Website: www.icicisecurities.com
Investor Grievance ID: customercare@icicisecurities.com
Contact Person: Sameer Purohit/ Sumit Singh
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011179

JM Financial Limited
7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6630 3030/ 3262
E-mail: lic.ipo@jmfl.com
Website: www.jmfl.com
Investor Grievance ID: grievance.ibd@jmfl.com
Contact Person: Prachee Dhuri
SEBI Registration Number: INM000010361

J.P. Morgan India Private Limited
J.P. Morgan Tower, Off. C.S.T. Road
Kalina, Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6157 3000
E-mail: LIC_IPO@jpmorgan.com
Website: www.jpmipl.com
Investor Grievance ID: investorsmb.jpmipl@jpmorgan.com
Contact Person: Saarthak K Soni
SEBI Registration Number: INM000002970

Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited
Ceejay House, Level 11 Plot F, Shivsagar Estate,
Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400 018 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4037 4037
E-mail: licipo@nomura.com
Website: www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html
Investor Grievance ID: investorgrievances-in@nomura.com
Contact Person: Vishal Kanjani/Sandeep Baid
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011419

SBI Capital Markets Limited
202, Maker Tower "E", Cuffe Parade
Mumbai 400 005 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 2217 8300
E-mail: lic.ipo@sbicaps.com
Website: www.sbicaps.com
Investor Grievance ID: investor.relations@sbicaps.com
Contact Person: Sambit Rath/Mounika T
SEBI Registration Number: INM000003531

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

KFin Technologies Limited
Selenium, Tower B, Plot No- 31 and 32
Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda,
Serilingampally, Hyderabad 500 032 Telangana, India
Tel: +91 40 6716 2222; **E-mail:** lic.ipo@kfintech.com
Investor Grievance ID: einward.ris@kfintech.com
Website: www.kfintech.com
Contact Person: M Murli Krishna
SEBI Registration Number: INR000000221

COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Pawan Agrawal
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Yogakshema, Jeevan Bima Marg
Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 2202 2079; **E-mail:** investors@licindia.com
Website: www.licindia.in

Investors can contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, the BRLMs or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related problems, such as non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode.

AVAILABILITY OF RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the *"Risk Factors"* beginning on page 24 of the RHP before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP will be made available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, the websites of the BRLMs, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com and the websites of the Stock Exchanges, for BSE at www.bseindia.com and for NSE at www.nseindia.com.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORM: Bid cum Application Form can be obtained from the Central Office of the Corporation, **LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA:** Tel: +91 22 2202 2079; **BRLMs: Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4336 0000; **Axis Capital Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4325 2183; **BofA Securities India Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6632 8000; **Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6175 9999; **Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6616 9000; **ICICI Securities Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6807 7100; **JM Financial Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6630 3030/ 3262; **J.P. Morgan India Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 6157 3000; **Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited**, Tel: +91 22 4037 4037 and **SBI Capital Markets Limited**, Tel: +91 22 2217 8300; **Syndicate Members: Investec Capital Services (India) Private Limited,** Tel: +91 22 6849 7400; **JM Financial Services Limited,** Tel: +91 22 6136 3400; **Kotak Securities Limited,** Tel: +91 22 6218 5470 and **SBICAP Securities Limited,** Tel: +91 22 4227 3300 /69316100 and at selected locations of Sub-Syndicate Members (as given below), Registered Brokers, SCSBs, Designated RTA Locations and Designated CDP Locations for participating in the Offer. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and at all the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

SUB-SYNDICATE MEMBERS: Achiievers Equities Limited; Ajcon Global Services Limited; Alankit Assignments Limited; Almondz Global Securities Limited; Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Ltd.; Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Limited; Anand Share Consultancy; ANS Pvt Limited; Ashwani Dandia & Co; Axis Securities Limited; Centrum Broking Limited; Centrum Wealth Management Ltd.; Choice Equity Broking Private Limited; Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited; DB(International) Stock Brokers Ltd.; Dhani Stocks Limited; Edelweiss Broking Limited; Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Limited; G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited; Globe Capital Market Limited; ICICI Securities Limited; IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Limited; IIFL Securities Ltd.; Innovate Securities Pvt Limited; Jhaveri Securities; Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited; Kalpataru Multiplier Limited; Kantilal Chhaganlal Sec Pvt Ltd.; Keynote Capitals Limited; KJMC Capital Market Services Limited; Lakshmishree Investment & Securities Pvt Limited; LKP Securities Limited; Inventure Growth & Securities Ltd.; Marwadi Shares & Finance; Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited; Motilal Oswal Securities Limited; Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt. Ltd.; Ohm Securities; Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited; Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Limited; Pravin Ratilal Share and Stock Brokers Ltd.; RR Equity Brokers Private Limited; Safal Capital (India) Limited; Sharekhan Limited; SMC Global Securities Limited; Systematix Shares and Stocks (India) Limited; Tanna Financial Services; Trade Bulls Securities (P) Ltd.; Trust Financial Consultancy Services Pvt Limited; Viren M Shah; WayZWealth Brokers Private Limited and Yes Securities (India) Limited.

ESCROW COLLECTION BANK/ REFUND BANK / PUBLIC ISSUE BANK/ SPONSOR BANKS: Axis Bank Limited, HDFC Bank Limited and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited. | **UPI:** UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI mechanism.

All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For **LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA**
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai
Date: May 7, 2022

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CONCEPT

CM asks DCs to bring in change, provide responsive administration

Pointing out that Govt. has proved to be alive by reaching out to the needy, Bommai says priority should be given to clearing files related to pension and land sanction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After reviewing implementation of various budgetary programmes with Ministers last week, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday instructed Deputy Commissioners to bring in change in the district administration and face challenges together to make administration more responsive to the public.

Mr. Bommai, who chaired a conference of Deputy Commissioners here, asked them to execute the Government's programmes promptly by taking bold decisions. He told officials to work proactively to give good administration, instead of just thinking about change.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at a meeting with Deputy Commissioners at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He said laxity on the part of the district officials in the implementation of welfare schemes and release of compensation would not be tolerated. He told officials to crackdown on corruption by ensuring transparency in clearing files related to payment of compensation in various cases.

Pointing out that 16,436 petitions were pending at the Chief Minister's Office, he said 10,000 petitions have been dispatched to districts. He told Deputy Commissioners to open cells to address public grievances in a time-bound manner.

Stating that the Government has proved to be alive and responsive by reaching out to the needy to address their grievances, the Chief Minister said priority should be given to clearing files related to pensions and sanction of lands. There was a need to provide a people-friendly administration to poor and marginalised sections of the people who come to Deputy Commissioner's office seeking solutions.

With just a year to go for the State Assembly elections, the Chief Minister directed officials to take steps for expediting the implementation of programmes and projects mentioned in the State Budget for 2022-23. He told Deputy Commissioners to review the disposal of applications/petitions at the Grama One centers.

Steps should to be taken to open Grama One centers in Mandya, Mysuru, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Chamarajanagar, Raichur, and Vijayanagar districts in the next one month, Mr. Bommai said at the meeting.

Referring to important role played by Deputy Commissioners in the development of the State, Mr. Bommai said people would not question them if they discharge their duties sincerely in a simple manner by extending office hours. Deputy Commissioners must attend tahsildar's offices once in a week, he said.

As many farmers have commenced land preparations following rains in several districts, Mr. Bommai told officials to take stock of the seeds and fertilizers demand to prevent shortages during the kharif season. He also told Deputy Commissioners to seek funds from the Government to provide relief during crop damages, particularly mangoes, owing to unseasonal rains.

On land related issues, Mr. Bommai said priority should be given for acquisition of lands for early completion of infrastructure and development projects.

The Chief Minister said steps should be taken for construction of mega hostels on university campuses in Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Bengaluru, Dakshina Kannada and Mysuru. Schemes related to Revenue, Agriculture, Public Works, Social Welfare, Energy, Health and other departments were reviewed at the meeting.

Contractors unhappy over ₹50 cr. limit for pre-tender scrutiny panel

Association says terms of reference 'too little and ineffective'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Days ahead of the crucial May 11 meeting of the executive committee of the Karnataka State Contractors' Association that has threatened to stop work across the State for a month in protest against "40% commission in contracts", the State Government constituted a three-member Pre-Tender Scrutiny Committee, hoping to bring a thaw in the frosty relations between the Government and contractors. However, the association is not happy with the terms of reference (ToR) of the committee and has termed it "too little and ineffective".

On April 25, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai met with a delegation of the association, when he reportedly promised the association to widen the ambit of the Pre-Tender Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise all contracts above ₹25 crore. However, the order issued on Saturday stipulates the cut off at ₹50 crore again.

"How many works will be there above ₹50 crore in the State? Moreover, it is too easy to break them into multiple contracts to escape scrutiny. We demanded a pre-tender scrutiny for all contracts above ₹5 crore or ₹10 crore. But the Chief Minister promised us to reduce the cut off to ₹25 crore. Pre-tender scrutiny for only contracts above ₹50 crore is too little and essentially ineffective to curb any corruption," said D. Kempanna, president of the association.

> **How many works will be there above ₹50 crore in the State? Moreover, it is too easy to break them into multiple contracts to escape scrutiny.**
> D. KEMPANNA
> President of Karnataka State Contractors' Association

However, there has been a pushback from within the departments against a pre-tender scrutiny committee even at a ₹50 crore cut off. Major departments like Public Works and Water Resources already have a multitude of tender scrutiny mechanisms and in other departments any tender above ₹3 crore has to be approved by the Cabinet.

The Pre-Tender Scrutiny Committee only adds another layer of redtape delaying works, they argue.

This, especially since the committee will have to publish details of the tender on a website, invite public objections giving 7 days time, scrutinise them and submit its recommendations to the respective departments in 30 days.

"A single judge assisted by two members scrutinising all tenders above ₹50 crore is a bit impractical and may create a backlog, further delaying works," a senior official said.

Meanwhile, the contractors' association seems to be unhappy with the State Government's response to their demands as well and will likely hold a mega protest by month end.

"Not only the ToR of the Pre-Tender Scrutiny Committee, most of the assurances given by the Chief Minister have not been fulfilled. The May 11 executive committee meeting will decide whether to strike work. But we will definitely hold the protest," Mr. Kempanna said.

H.K. Patil seeks judicial investigation into 19 lakh 'missing' voting machines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Congress leader and MLA H.K. Patil on Sunday called on Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri and submitted documents related to 19 lakh "missing" electronic voting machines (EVMs) from the custody of the Election Commission of India during 2016-18 and demanded an inquiry by an independent judicial commission into the episode.

Addressing a press conference later, Mr. Patil said the Speaker should urge the Centre and President Ram Nath Kovind to initiate a free and fair probe into missing EVMs under the chairmanship of a Supreme Court judge. Mr. Patil said he had submitted 2,750 pages of documents to the Speaker.

In a letter to Mr. Kageri, Mr. Patil demanded summoning of ECI officials to the Assembly to clarify on the allegations against the ECI, State Election Commission and public sector undertakings.

"The State Election Commission may be directed to hold an "ethical hackathon" by technocrats, R&D institutions, corporates involved in technology and scientists to allay anxiety, suspicion and confusion raised in the minds of people about EVMs, he said.

During a special debate on electoral reforms in the State Assembly a few months ago, the former Minister cited RTI responses to urge the Speaker to seek clarification from the ECI. Following the debate, the Speaker had agreed to summon the ECI and seek an explanation.

Mr. Patil claimed that 9.64 lakh EVMs had gone missing from Bharat Electronics Ltd. and 9.29 lakh from Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., another firm manufacturing the voting machines. He cited RTI responses received by Mumbai-based activist Manoranjan Roy from BEL, ECIL and the ECI.

The manufacturer of EVMs told ECI to dispose of machines after the shelf life of 15 years. In 2006, a technical committee too recommended to the ECI to dispose of EVMs that are 15 years old. But in 2021, ECI published a manual and glaringly deleted a chapter on disposal of EVMs, Mr. Patil alleged.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

What's in a name?
Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, BJP MLA from Vijayapura and former Union Minister, is no stranger to controversies. He has often criticised his own party and its leaders.

At a recent Panchamasali rally in Ramdurg, he targeted Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani and his brothers for their alleged lack of concern for the community, self-centred politics and nepotism. However, he stopped short of naming them. Mr. Yatnal alleged that the influential brothers were trying to corner every political opportunity in North Karnataka. "They want all the party ticket for themselves," he said.

The BJP MLA claimed that one of the Nirani brothers has been trying to contest Assembly elections from Athani. "But I will not let them do it. I will come here and campaign against them," he said.

At the end of the rally, Mr. Yatnal was asked why he did not name the Nirani brothers after launching into such a tirade against them. And pat came the reply, "I take the names of only those who are worthy of being named."

Blame it on media
With the PSI scam getting bigger each day and more policemen and job aspirants being arrested, the Home Department has begun blaming the media for publication of "unfounded" stories. The department said that many people were trying to "misdirect/misguide" the investigation by giving "unfounded stories" in media and social media.

As leaders of Opposition parties dropped names of leaders in the ruling BJP who have alleged links with the PSI scam, the Home Department said many people have been trying to malign the image of some people to settle their personal/professional rivalries. The CID said it would look into every matter which comes to its knowledge "with relevant evidence."

Puttaswamy turns 'swamy'
Even as all religious practices are gaining spotlight under the current BJP regime at the Centre, a saffron party leader in Karnataka has decided to bid goodbye to worldly affairs and embrace sanyasa. The 83-year-old BJP leader and former Minister,

B.J. Puttaswamy (*in picture*), who took sanyasa deekshe is likely to take over as the first pontiff of the Thaileswara Ganigara Mahasamsthana Mutt in Bengaluru on May 15. He would be renamed Poornanandapuri Swami.

Mr. Puttaswamy was initiated into sanyasa by Jayendra Puri, seer of the Kailasa Ashram Mahasamsthana Mutt. Mr. Puttaswamy served as the vice-chairperson of the Karnataka State Planning Board. Earlier, he had served as a Minister in the Jagadish Shettar-led Cabinet. He was very loyal to former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

Generally, political leaders rush to mutts to seek blessings of seers during the election time. Will politicians seek blessings of this new politician-turned-swami remains to be seen.

RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI
NAGESH PRABHU

POLICE SUB-INSPECTORS' RECRUITMENT EXAM SCAM

Senior-most ASIs to be promoted to fill vacancies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The cancellation of the selection list of 545 police sub-inspectors (PSIs) over alleged malpractices in the exam has widened the vacancies in the Police Department, to which they have found an ingenious way out.

Senior-most assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs) will now be promoted as PSIs, albeit temporarily. They will have to revert to their postings once the PSIs directly recruited join the workforce and will have no claims over benefits. The arrangement has been made necessary as the direct recruitment of PSIs, that has suffered a setback with the cancellation of the list and alleged malpractices, will take another year, an official said.

In a circular issued on Friday, Director-General and Inspector-General of Police Praveen Sood directed the SPs and the Commissioners to give priority to ASIs who are due for retirement for promotion. Mr. Sood also directed the officers in-charge to inform the ASIs about the stopgap arrangement and asked to get an undertaking from them stating that the promotion is temporary and they will have no claims over seniority for promotions. A senior police official said many personnel were awaiting promotion for a long time and this move would boost their morale and motivate them to perform better. Among the PSI posts, 70% are reserved for direct recruits, while the remaining are filled by promotions. This rule has been relaxed to fill up vacancies.

Rudragouda Patil's bank accounts frozen

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials on Sunday froze bank accounts of Rudragouda Patil, one of the key accused in the police sub-inspectors' recruitment exam scam, apart from taking possession of property documents, gold ornaments and cash belonging to the accused.

The CID officials seized three lockers from a private bank and recovered 506 grams of gold and also found ₹38 lakh in his bank accounts. However, there were no valid documents of how he acquired the huge amount of money and other assets. The police were also tracing various bank accounts belonging to Mr. Patil.

He was shifted to Kalaburagi Central Prison, as his CID custody ends here on Sunday.

According to sources, the CID sleuths would again take Mr. Patil into custody to investigate his alleged involvement in the malpractices reported at another examination centre, M.S. Irani College, in the city. A separate case was registered against Rudragouda Patil, Chandrakant Kulkarni, Prabhu and Sharanappa at Station Bazaar police station for the illegality carried out in PSI recruitment exam in this centre.

Manjunath Melakundi, an assistant engineer at Irrigation Department and a key accused, has been suspended for his alleged involvement in the scam.

On Sunday, CID officials conducted the mahazar at Gyan Jyoti English Medium School for the second time. The school was run by BJP leader Divya Hagaragi, another prime accused in the case.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

Respectful pranams at the lotus feet of
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09/05/2022

Her Holiness
Pujyashri Mathioli
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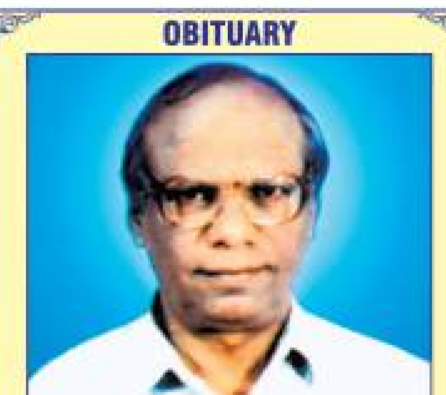
நிரந்தரமாக வாழும் தெய்வம்.
- Devotees

DEATH
OBITUARY



U.R.SACHIDANANDAM (77)
(Retd. BSNL DOT - Sanchar Sree Awardee)
Attained Lotus feet of the God on May 06, 2022.
Last rites held on Saturday May 07, 2022
Mourned by:
Sons: S. Sankaranarayanan, S. Umamaheswaran
Son-in-law: N.L. Rajeesh Daughter: S. Vijayalakshmi
Daughters-in-law: S. Gajalakshmi, U. Selva Rani
Grand Children: U. Ranjith, R. Gayathre, S. Kaashika, U. Hashwanth, S. Dharshini
Ph: 9841224721 / 9940110681

REMEMBRANCE
60th Wedding Anniversary Remembrance
The first wedding at St. James Church, Ayanavaram, Chennai 600 023, on 9th May 1962

Mrs. Kanagavalli & Mr. I.N. Boniface
(ex NLC Ltd., Neyveli)
"Many waters cannot quench love". Song of Solomon 8:7
Fondly remembered by their children:
Jami, Rebecca, Vimal, Vasant & their families
(Mobile: 94443 96158, 98409 66757)

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Govt. hospitals asked to conduct fire safety audit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Health Department on Sunday instructed officials of 166 district and taluk government hospitals across the State to conduct a fire safety audit of its premises and receive an NOC from the State Fire and Emergency Services Department.

Such a measure was initiated by Health Minister K. Sudhakar after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a video conference recently with Chief Ministers of all States. In the video conference, the PM had suggested that all Chief Ministers conduct a fire safety audit as incidents of fire accidents had increased due to summer heat.

Heavy rain likely in north A.P.

'Asani' may further intensify into a severe cyclonic storm over Bay of Bengal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Cyclone Asani over the southeast Bay of Bengal moved nearly northwestwards with a speed of 14 km in six hours and lay centred over the same region, about 470 km west of Port Blair (Andaman Islands), 850 km southeast of Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and 930 km south-southeast of Puri (Odisha) on Sunday afternoon.

It is very likely to move northwestwards and intensify further into a severe cyclonic storm over southeast Bay of Bengal in another six hours. It is very likely to continue to move northwestwards till the evening of May 10 and reach west central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coasts.

The Cyclone Warning Centre has advised fishermen against venturing into the sea on May 10 and 11. • FILE PHOTO

Thereafter, it is very likely to re-curve north-northeastwards and move towards northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast.

Thunder showers

Light to moderate rain or thunder showers with lightning are likely to occur at one or two places over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on Sunday and Monday.

Heavy rain is likely to occur at one or two places in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts on May 10 and 11. Squally wind with speed reaching 40-50 km, gusting to 60 km is likely along and off North coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on May 10 and 11. The Cyclone Warning Centre,Visakhapatnam, has advised fishermen against venturing into the sea on the two days.

IMD Director-General Mrutunjay Mohaptra on Saturday made it clear the cyclone was unlikely to make landfall either in the coast of Odisha or Andhra Pradesh, but will move parallel to the coast in the sea.

On May 9, the wind speed will be 105 to 115 gusting 125 kmph and then the storm is expected to lose steam in the sea on May 10 with wind speed coming down to 96-105 gusting 115 in the early hours reducing progressively as the day wears off.

(With PTI inputs)

Yatnal to get notice over 'cash for CM post' remark

Basanagouda Patil Yatnal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal's remarks that he was asked to keep ready ₹2,500 crore if he wanted to become the Chief Minister embarrassed the party with the Opposition Congress taking up the issue seriously, BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel has stated that a showcause notice would be issued to Mr. Yatnal to seek an explanation from him.

Mr. Kateel told reporters in Tumakuru on Saturday that he had brought the issue to the notice of the party disciplinary committee as well as the Central leadership. Further action would be initiated as per their directions, he noted.

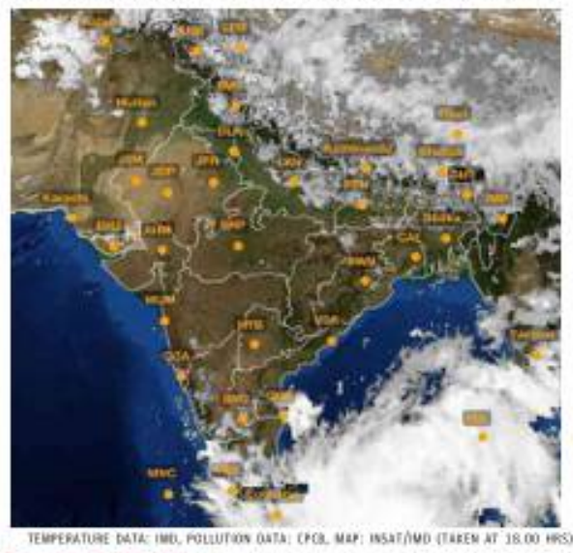
Recalling that such notices had been served on Mr. Yatnal twice with respect to some other issues, he said a notice would be issued to him this time too and explanation would be sought about his remarks.

Mr. Kateel said the party would not discriminate among its leaders and their political status when it comes to disciplinary issues.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yatnal took an U-turn with respect to his remarks by maintaining that he had never said that the party high command had sought money from him. He told reporters that he was only referring to what an unknown seer from Delhi had told him over telephone.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning or gusty winds at isolated places likely over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Kerala. Heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	36.3	25.8	Kozhikode	–	36.1	26.5
Ahmedabad	–	41.7	29.0	Kurnool	–	42.3	29.7
Aizawl	–	29.8	19.5	Lucknow	–	37.8	26.6
Allahabad	–	41.3	26.6	Madurai	–	40.5	27.3
Bengaluru	2.4	33.5	21.8	Mangaluru	–	32.4	25.8
Bhopal	–	40.8	25.4	Mumbai	–	33.4	26.0
Bhubaneswar	–	36.0	25.4	Mysuru	12.0	34.0	21.0
Chandigarh	–	39.8	25.3	New Delhi	–	41.0	24.0
Chennai	–	35.7	28.0	Patna	–	37.4	25.8
Coimbatore	3.0	33.8	22.6	Port Blair	28.0	31.1	25.4
Dehradun	–	35.5	19.8	Puducherry	–	36.4	27.3
Gangtok	0.3	26.7	17.3	Pune	–	40.7	23.8
Goa	–	33.5	26.7	Raipur	–	40.6	26.0
Guwahati	2.0	36.2	22.4	Ranchi	–	36.2	22.2
Hubballi	–	38.0	23.0	Shillong	–	25.0	15.6
Hyderabad	–	39.2	29.4	Shimla	–	29.8	19.8
Imphal	–	32.2	20.8	Srinagar	–	29.3	12.8
Jaipur	–	42.6	28.2	Thiruvananthapuram	–	33.3	26.5
Kochi	–	32.4	25.6	Tiruchi	–	37.0	26.0
Kohima	2.0	25.2	13.2	Vijayawada	–	39.0	28.0
Kolkata	1.0	35.3	27.2	Visakhapatnam	–	34.6	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	12	–	256	184	
Bengaluru	7	32	18	97	117	
Chennai	24	19	38	86	71	
Delhi	33	5	45	318	171	
Hyderabad	4	30	38	120	125	
Kolkata	29	15	23	81	117	
Lucknow	8	85	42	185	139	
Mumbai	8	5	19	334	412	
Pune	–	22	51	265	144	
Visakhapatnam	16	41	8	65	106	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 310 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 34.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Cong. backing groups that want to break nation'

Nirmala Sitharaman accuses the party of absentee politics; hails Prime Minister Modi's vaccine policy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Congress is in touch with "left wing extremists groups" that are fighting against the country and is extending support to such outfits that want to break the nation, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman alleged at an event in Chennai on Sunday.

Speaking at the 52nd anniversary of *Thuglak* magazine, Ms. Sitharaman said the party had since the time of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi been associated with "fringe parties" such as the Communist parties and had given them various posts and foreign tours to Russia and Nepal.

Nirmala Sitharaman addressing 52nd anniversary celebrations of the Tamil weekly Thuglak in Chennai. • R. RAGU

"[Congress leader] Rahul Gandhi is going and standing at places and with such people who want to break the nation, something Indira Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi wouldn't have done. Congress is telling such groups that you go and protest and we will keep supporting you," she said. "This is the kind of absentee politics that we don't want in the country," she added.

The Minister said when the BJP said it wanted a "Congress-mukt Bharat" (Congress-free India), it meant certain behaviours that defined the Congress and other parties; behaviours such as absentee politics, elitism, blundering, corruption and dynastic politics. Taking a dig at Mr. Rahul, she said he behaved like the owner of the party and won't do any work on the ground but will only tweet and go abroad. According to her, the country wanted an active Congress that would come for discussion, stand up for people's issues.

Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's COVID vaccination rate, she claimed the Congress had created vaccine hesitancy in the country.

"I am thankful that Narendra Modi was India's Prime Minister when COVID happened. I cannot imagine what would have happened otherwise," she said. "The Congress said Article 370 could not be changed. But BJP proved it otherwise and even the Supreme Court has recognised it on a legal basis. Look at the Congress-ruled States. There's so much corruption," she said. The Minister said everyone knew who they were moving around with, but Congress leaders would go to poor people's huts and take photos to fool people that they were with the poor.

On the issue of GST compensation, she said only ₹78,000 crore for two months for all the States in the country was pending and that all the remaining dues had been paid.

Further she said, Tamil Nadu needed a national party to be in government and that everyone should work together to bring the BJP to power in the State.

Thuglak Editor S. Gurumurthy was present.

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How the Pre-Texts method helps students engage with text that they'd have otherwise ignored

For the love of the word

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MADHUMITHA SRINIVASAN

The etymology for school is "leisure". As a place of 'leisure', it refers to an environment where students can engage with the curriculum without the pressure of learning. But how many students fondly recall their experiences in school or college as being leisurely or enjoyable?

However, this is not a utopian or impractical idea. Take the Pre-Texts methodology, for example. This method of learning transforms the text into art. Students are engaged in a manual activities like drawing, sewing, sculpting, painting and so on, while the facilitator – teacher or parent – reads out a text from a curriculum. As the student internalises the text and manifests it into the art form of their choice, not only is art created but it also becomes a vehicle to encourage students to read. Reading and comprehension is the real outcome.

To explore its effectiveness in Indian education, The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University, has partnered with FLAME University's Centre for Knowledge Alternatives for a research project on 'Enhancing Reading and Learning Outcomes through Pre-Text Method in Schools'. Its principal investigators are Prof. Doris Sommer, Ira Jewell Williams, Jr. Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of African and African American Studies, and Director of the Cultural Agents Initiative, Harvard University; Prof. Yugank Goyal, Associate Professor in public policy, and Founding Director, Centre for Knowledge Alternatives at FLAME University; and Prof. Shivakumar Jolad, Associate Professor at FLAME University. Prof. Sommer and Prof. Goyal share insights into the Pre-Texts methodology and the role it can play in promoting a love of reading among learners.

What is the science behind the efficacy of this method?

Neuroscience has been trying to teach us what good educators, including parents, know: very little is learned without pleasure and less is retained. D.D. Winnicott, the groundbreaking British child psychoanalyst, promoted play as the vehicle for learning to explore and to love the world. The implied corollary which Pre-Texts foregrounds is the pleasure that keeps students engaged with the experience.

How does it work?

Pre-Texts takes for granted that children, youth, and adults too may not yet enjoy reading, so we don't force it. Instead, we appropriate the tradition of reading aloud while people are engaged in an art activity.

The teacher - now acting as a facilitator - provides the text from a curriculum. The students listen to a few pages while they make something and then propose the art form to explore the text. Students drive the activities, even if the text is "found" as raw material for choreography, murals, drama song, riddles, costumes, recipes, etc. The text is transformed into an art, and in doing so, students engage with text that they'd have otherwise ignored. And they will read it carefully because weaving a text into an art form means understanding the text critically.

Students are prompted to think of the question they want to ask the text. Teachers don't ask students. Students do the investigation and are not the objects of scrutiny. This eliminates fear, competition, shame. It also stimulates critical reading. Curiosity and conversation deepen comprehension, without forcing any single "correct" perspective as teachers often do.

How much skilling would a facilitator require in the Pre-Texts method?

Very little skill, if this refers to professional training. Young people, even teenagers, can be good facilitators. The only requirement is to support students, which includes sitting in the circle of learners. Circles generate equality and collaboration while rows confirm authoritarianism.

What challenges do you foresee in its implementation in the Indian education system?

Practically, only the rigidity that school education often works with. Teachers in Pre-text should be open to relinquishing their authority and bringing students to the centre of discussions. Once they begin doing it, it will flip open tremendous energy, and teachers will begin liking it too. That is why a short training period is probably more effective than over-professionalising education. Pre-Texts can be a supportive bridge between government and private schools as standard facilitation that achieves the arts-integration goal established by the nation's government.

What are the benefits of promoting reading?

Reading empowers. It helps make sense of the world. Texts represent ideas that are organised. Reading texts, therefore, allows absorbing new ideas, getting inspired, and drawing pleasure. From a socio-economic point of view, reading advances society. Gutenberg's printing press is often called the most profoundly impactful invention that changed history because it enabled reading.

A few interesting findings from your research...

Students prefer to collaborate rather than compete. Competition breeds aggression and corruption. They actually thank facilitators for the pleasure of seeing one another.

Students learn to "go off on tangents" and find more texts to offer their classmates. This enhances their critical thinking skills and builds more curiosity and love for reading.

Depression and anxiety are reduced and bullying practically vanishes.

Third and final round

Proposed Constitution Bench hearing should end the wrangling over NCT's status

The complexities of the law governing the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi will once again be under elaborate judicial focus. In what will be the third round of litigation in the dispute between the Union government and the Government of the NCT of Delhi, a Constitution Bench will embark on interpreting a couple of phrases in Article 239AA, which confers a unique status for Delhi. It would indeed seem unnecessary for another Constitution Bench after five judges had rendered an authoritative pronouncement in 2018 on various questions that arose from Article 239AA. However, the Chief Justice of India, Justice N.V. Ramana, has made it clear that the reference to a five-member Bench will be strictly limited to the interpretation of a couple of phrases that were not examined by the earlier Bench, and no other point will be reopened. Broadly, the 2018 verdict, through three concurring opinions, had ruled that Delhi was indeed a Union Territory, but the Lieutenant Governor, as the Administrator appointed by the President, should act as per the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, in areas in which legislative power was conferred on Delhi's Legislative Assembly. Under Article 239AA, except for police, public order and land, the Delhi Assembly can make law on all other matters in the State and Concurrent Lists 'insofar as such matter is applicable to Union Territories'. The mandate of the hearing is to declare what this phrase means, and whether it is one more limitation on Delhi's legislative, and by extension, executive powers.

The 2018 ruling limited the Lieutenant Governor's domain by making it clear that not every decision required his concurrence. It had cautioned against the notion of representative democracy being negated, if legitimate decisions of the Council of Ministers were blocked merely because the Lieutenant Governor had a different view. The Lieutenant Governor's power to refer "any matter" on which he disagreed with the elected regime did not mean he could raise a dispute on "every matter". It is perhaps because of the underlying message that an unelected administrator should not undermine an elected administration that the Centre badly wanted a fresh reference to another Constitution Bench. It is indeed true that a split verdict by a two-judge Bench on the question whether 'services' fell under the Union government's domain or the NCT government has flagged the absence of a determination in the Constitution Bench verdict on the question whether Entry 41 of the State List (services) is within the NCT's executive and legislative domain. Entry 41 is not one of the excluded areas of legislation by the Delhi Assembly, but it has been argued that there are no services under the Delhi government and, therefore, it was not a matter applicable to the NCT at all. Settling this remaining question should give a quietus to the endless wrangling between the Modi government at the Centre and the Kejriwal regime in Delhi.

One more year

As the Asiad is put off, athletes have to rework preparations and priorities

In recent times, sport seemed to be breathing easy despite COVID-19's long shadow. Yet, a surprising full stop has sprung up in a multi-disciplinary continental event with the postponement of the Asian Games at Hangzhou in China. That Shanghai has witnessed an outbreak which led to the enforcement of strict restrictions has obviously forced a rethink within the Chinese landscape. Scheduled to be held in September, the Asian Games needs a fresh window and the speculation is that like the Tokyo Olympics, which suffered a year's postponement and was held in 2021, the Asiad too may spill over into 2023. In the current year featuring the World Championships, which was to be followed by the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games was expected to be the big climax. This benchmark has now vanished, and athletes and sports bodies have to alter plans. Sportspersons train to gradually reach the 'zone' or the 'peak', when they maximise their chances of winning a coveted medal. It is linked to a monitored blend of training, nutrition and rest while the eye is locked on the event dates. However, a last-minute change scuppers even the best-laid plans and demands a recalibration from the concerned athlete, coaching staff and sports associations and nations.

The latest development offers a mixed bag for India, which finds better success rates in the Asiad and Commonwealth Games, unlike in the Olympics. But cutting across the varied spectrum of Indian sport, the indefinite postponement is seen both as a blessing and a curse. With the Asian Games serving as a qualification event for the Paris Olympics in 2024, Hockey India was initially mulling over fielding a second-string team at the Commonwealth Games and sending across its main squad for the Asiad. The apprehensions were centred around the difficulty of peaking twice in a year within a few months. But with China postponing the marquee event, a full-strength hockey outfit can now be sent to Birmingham for the Commonwealth Games. The same relief applies to other athletes too as they now have to focus only on the World Championships and Commonwealth Games. But for the 30-plus athletes eyeing a swansong, it would be difficult to stretch every sinew in the next year too. Runner Jinson Johnson, gold medallist in the 2018 Asiad, may have to train for an additional season. There are other complications as in the boxing calendar, 2023 competitions are the yardstick for Olympic qualification. An Asiad in that cycle would affect preparation. China had its reasons for the postponement, and the sporting world will need to rework preparations and priorities.

Turning down the volume on a call to prayer

The winds of change that have started from Saudi Arabia may just be embracing Indian Islam

ZIYA US SALAM

A few days after Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti celebrations and a little before Jummatul Alvida (last Friday of Ramzan), the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh swung into action. Quoting a judgment of the Allahabad High Court, in *Motilal Yadav vs The State of Uttar Pradesh*, the government, in an even-handed manner, removed around 10,900 loudspeakers from various places of worship, with the initial focus being on the Chief Minister's constituency (Gorakhpur), the Prime Minister's constituency (Varanasi), besides Lucknow and Allahabad.

The early reports revealed that most places of worship, mosques and temples, were flouting the court order and using loudspeakers either without legal permission or above the prescribed decibel level. Within a couple of days, the campaign extended to towns in western Uttar Pradesh – Agra, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Muzaffarnagar, etc. In Agra, 756 loudspeakers were removed from various places of worship. At one go, around 90% of mosques and 85% of temples were found to be at fault.

A surprising response

The government action was met with a considerably mature response. There were no threats to hit the roads or approach the Supreme Court. There were no calls for rallies or even whispers of discrimination or appeasement. The lack of opposition from religious leaders and clerics surprised many. Maybe the images of destruction in the wake of bulldozer visits in neighbouring Delhi and Madhya Pradesh had had an effect. While the response from some Hindu priests was muted, the Muslim community was divided in its response.

For the past few years there has been a silent churning within the community on certain key issues such as the use of loudspeakers for 'azaan' (prayer call), use of public roads for Friday prayers, etc. A section has been volubly in favour of perpetuation of these concessions in a pluralist democracy, pointing to similar prayers and celebrations of other communities. That section involved in constant one-upmanship with the majority community is, however, fast losing numbers. A significant section has been on an introspective mode, preferring to do the right thing by law and religion. It is this section which found fairness with the government's decision to ban or limit the loudspeaker usage in places of worship of all religions or curtailing public space for prayers. Drawing from the traditions of the Prophet, they reiterate that it is incumbent on the community to follow the law of the land, and one's action should not discomfit others.

Then and now

The largely educated section, aware of the tenets of faith too, points out that at one time, the use of loudspeakers could be understood or allowed, as back in the 1960s and the 1970s, there were severely limited ways of communication. Mobiles were nowhere on the horizon; landline phones were rare and many houses did not even have a clock. One had to book an HMT wrist watch for weeks in advance. There were instances where a passer-by or neighbour dropped in just to ask the time. In Ramzan, the believers were often woken up by wandering mendicants, singing hymns

SUDHAKARA JAIN

and knocking at each door to remind them of time for *suhoor* (pre-dawn) meal. However, those challenges ended many decades ago. In the age of Internet, mobiles and Islamic Apps on phones, it is no longer necessary for a muezzin to blare out the prayer invitation five times a day on a loudspeaker. In fact, many regular worshippers download Apps on their mobile which remind them of prayer time with 'azaan'.

Interestingly, the 'azaan' on loudspeakers has often divided the community. Back in the 1960s and 1970s, the supporters of the Tablighi Jamaat, then beginning to have an international following, opposed the use of loudspeakers for the purpose of inviting the faithful to prayers. The largest Muslim organisation pointed out that the Prophet preferred the use of a high mound or hill for a person to climb and give out the prayer call. It may be recalled that back in the seventh century, shortly after Muslims had reached Medina from Mecca, the Prophet had to devise a way of inviting people to the mosque five times a day. Some of his companions suggested a bell could be rung to invite people for prayers. Others suggested a horn could be blown. A few others wanted a fire to be lit atop a hill as a mark of prayer time.

The Prophet turned down the suggestions as they were either being followed by Christians and Jews or were considered impractical. Finally, he asked Bilal, a Black manumitted slave, to learn the words suggested by Abdullah Ibn Zaid, a companion. Beginning with '*Allah-u-akbar*', the words together gave the complete text of the prayer call which Bilal was asked to pronounce from the top of the hill. In a strong statement for egalitarianism, the first 'azaan' was thus pronounced by a Black man without the sound of a drum or any other instrument or aid. This idea of the Prophet to call people from a height later led to the construction of tall minarets in mosques over the next many centuries. To this day, most medieval mosques in India, including the Jama Masjid in Delhi, have tall and robust minarets which a muezzin is supposed to climb to give the prayer call. It is this tradition which the Tablighi Jamaat wanted to maintain.

Competing calls

Much of it, however, changed from the 1970s, and by 1990s, mosques in Muslim neighbourhoods were seen to be competing in a game of higher volume for their respective 'azaans'. Spurred on partly by the Babri Masjid-Janmabhoomi movement from the late 1980s, many mosques made it a status symbol to employ multiple loudspeakers pointing at different directions for the sound to travel all across. Many temples, incidentally, did the same, some even using loudspeakers for *Prabhat pheris* at dawn. In old cities of Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Delhi with a sizeable Muslim population, it became almost impossible to respond to a solitary 'azaan' in peace as multiple mosques issued the same invitation at the same time, leading to more cacophony than spiritual rejuvenation. It is this noise, particularly at dawn (*Fajr*) and dusk (*Maghrib*) time that invited the attention of environment lovers who pointed out the health hazards due to increased noise pollution.

Incidentally, the situation is the same in much of the subcontinent. In Karachi and Lahore in Pakistan mosques use high volume on their loudspeakers; often one finds more than one 'azaan' call at the same time. In Bangladesh too, prayer calls are made on loudspeakers. It is not unusual to hear a prayer call from a mosque in either Pakistan or Bangladesh while watching a cricket match from either country. Recently, we had the unique spectacle of Australia cricket captain Pat Cummins tweeting about the experience of listening to 'azaan' in the mountains of northern Pakistan.

There is change

In Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, however, the winds of change have started to blow, with the authorities in both countries limiting the use of loudspeakers in masjids. Back in 2010 in Malaysia, Islamic authorities had issued a fatwa banning the use of loudspeakers for reading the *Koran* before *Fajr* prayers in the morning. In 2015, an advisory was used to discourage the use of loudspeakers for *tazkirah* or religious narration.

In the summer of 2021, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Islamic Affairs put out an order for all loudspeakers to be set at only a third of their maximum volume. The Kingdom permitted the use of loudspeakers at this volume for extending invitation to prayer and for *Iqamah* (second call at the commencement of prayer) and asked mosques not to use external amplifiers to broadcast their prayers in the neighbourhood. Similarly, the Kingdom asked the faithful not to use loudspeakers when they recite the *Koran* in the masjid as it was disrespectful to the book.

The winds of change that started from Saudi Arabia may just be embracing Indian Islam.

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India's judiciary and the slackening cog of trust

Departures from substantive and procedural justice need deep scrutiny as the fallout could severely imperil governance

VANI S. KULKARNI, VEENA S. KULKARNI & RAGHAV GAIHA

Centrality of justice in human lives is summed up in a few words by the Greek philosopher, Aristotle: "It is in justice that the ordering of society is centred." Yet, a vast majority of countries have highly corrupt judiciaries.

Judicial corruption takes two forms: political interference in the judicial process by the legislative or executive branch, and bribery. Despite accumulation of evidence on corrupt practices, the pressure to rule in favour of political interests remains intense. And for judges who refuse to comply, political retaliation can be swift and harsh. Bribery can occur throughout the chain of the judicial process: judges may accept bribes to delay or accelerate verdicts, accept or deny appeals, or simply to decide a case in a certain way. Court officials coax bribes for free services; and lawyers charge additional "fees" to expedite or delay cases.

A distinction

Our focus here is on the functioning of and erosion of trust in the lower judiciary comprising high courts, and district and sessions courts. A distinction between substantive and procedural justice is helpful. Substantive justice is associated with whether the statutes, case law and unwritten legal principles are morally justified (e.g., freedom to pursue any religion), while procedural justice is associated with fair and impartial decision procedures. Many outdated/dysfunctional laws or statutes have not been repealed because of the tardiness of legal reform both at the Union and State government levels. Worse, there have been blatant violations of constitutional provisions. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (December 2019) provides citizenship to – except Muslims – Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians who came to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan on or before December 31, 2014. But this flies in the face of secularism and is thus a violation of substantive justice. A striking example of tortuous delay in the delivery of justice is the case of Lal Bihari. He was officially declared dead in 1975, struggled to prove that he was alive (though deceased in the records) and was finally declared alive in 1994 (Debroy, 2021). Thus, both departures from substantive and procedural justice need deep scrutiny. Alongside procedural delays, endemic corruption and mounting shares of under-trial inmates with durations of three to five years point to stark failures of procedural justice and to some extent of substantive justice.

Under the different regimes

All was not well with the lower judiciary under the United Progressive Alliance regime. According to Transparency International (TI 2011), 45% of people who had come in contact with the judiciary between July 2009 and July 2010 had paid a bribe to the judiciary. The most common reason for paying the bribes was to "speed things up". There were "fixed" rates for a

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quick divorce, bail, and other procedures (Banerjee, 2012). The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) (April 2013) estimates that for every ₹2 in official court fees, at least ₹ 1,000 is spent in bribes in bringing a petition to the court.

There is a scarcity of evidence on bribes and malfeasance under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). A few broad-brush treatments are, however, worrying. Freedom House's 'Freedom in the World 2016 report for India' states that "the lower levels of the judiciary in particular have been rife with corruption" (Freedom House 2016). The GAN Business Anti-Corruption Portal reports that, "[t]here is a high risk of corruption when dealing with India's judiciary, especially at the lower court levels. Bribes and irregular payments are often exchanged in return for favourable court decisions" (GAN Integrity 2017).

Allegations of corruption against High Court judges abound. For example, Tis [Tiz] Hazari District Court Senior Civil Judge, Rachna Tiwari Lakhanpal, was arrested in September 2016 for allegedly accepting a bribe to rule in favour of a complainant in a case. Such examples are indicative of the widespread malaise of corruption in the lower judiciary. Worse, there are glaring examples of anti-Muslim bias, often followed by extra-judicial killings by the police. Anti-Muslim bias alone may not result in erosion of trust but if combined with unprovoked and brutal violence against them (e.g., lynching of innocent cattle traders) is bound to.

Case pendency

According to the National Judicial Data Grid, as of April 12, 2017, there are 24,186,566 pending cases in India's district courts, of which 2,317,448 (9.58%) have been pending for over 10 years, and 3,975,717 (16.44%) have been pending for between five and 10 years. As of December 31, 2015, there were 4,432 vacancies in the posts of [subordinate court] judicial officers, representing about 22% of the sanctioned strength. In the case of the High Courts, 458 of the 1,079 posts, representing 42% of the sanctioned strength, were vacant as of June 2016. Thus, severe backlogging and understaffing persisted, as also archaic and complex procedures of delivery of justice.

Extreme centralisation of power in the Centre and a blatant violation of democratic values under the NDA have had disastrous consequences in terms of violent clashes, loss of lives, religious discord, assaults on academic freedom, and suppression and manipulation of mass media. Exercise of extra-constitutional authority by the central and State governments, weakening of accountability mechanisms, widespread corruption in the lower judiciary and the police, with likely collusion between them, the perverted beliefs of the latter towards Muslims, other minorities and lower caste Hindus, a proclivity to deliver instant justice, extra-judicial killings, filing first information reports against innocent victims of mob lynching – specifically, Muslim cattle traders while the perpetrators of violence are allowed to get away – have left deep scars on the national psyche. It may seem farfetched but it is not, as these are unmistakable signs of abject failure of governance.

Our analysis reinforces this concern. While trust in the judiciary is positively and significantly related to the share of undertrials for three to five years under total prisoners, it is negatively and significantly related to the square of share of under-trials. However, the negative effect nearly offsets the positive effect. So, while trust in the judiciary marginally rises with the proportion of undertrials until the threshold (0.267) is reached, it decreases beyond that point as the proportion of under-trial inmates rises.

In sum, erosion of trust in the judiciary could severely imperil

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Breakfast scheme

The Tamil Nadu government and the Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin, deserve praise for the plan to provide free breakfast in the State to students of classes one to five on all working days. The goals of the mid-day meal scheme in Tamil Nadu, that was introduced by K. Kamaraj (though a similar scheme was supposed to have been thought of in 1925), were to increase school enrolment and attendance by the poor and downtrodden children. This scheme was further improved by M.G. Ramachandran, with additions such as egg and banana. In India especially, the objectives of education become attainable when children are assured free and nutritious food.

A.J. RANGARAJAN,
Chennai

■ The free breakfast plan is indeed the best announcement in the schemes announced by the Tamil Nadu government to mark the completion of one year of its rule.
Though some of the election promises have yet to be fulfilled, the overall welfare of the people of the State seems to be a driving force. One hopes that the government will ensure that Tamil Nadu shines.

N. MAHADEVAN,
Chennai

One year completed

While it is too early to comment on the performance of the Tamil Nadu government, there are some areas of concern that may derail its good intentions. The Chief Minister's outbursts against the Centre could prove detrimental to the interests of the State. A voice for State autonomy is acceptable, but it has its limitations. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam suddenly talking about a Dravidian model is also baffling when no one knows exactly what the model is all about. Unlike the past, people are conscious of their rights now, and mere rhetoric would be counter-productive in the long run. A BJP-ruled Centre is likely to continue, and the State government must be conscious of this.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

Jarring

It is an open secret that lynching has become a common affair ever since the government of the day came to power. Isn't it a shame that we are lynching people in the name of protecting cows? Why do brutes take the law into their own hands when there are other legal avenues to decide on such matters? Despite the spin around the Prime Minister's recent tour to Europe, leaders there are sure to have been watching things.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

Serious business

One cannot comment about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's mysterious 'foreign jaunts', but he cannot be oblivious to the fact that there are still dedicated Congressmen who are bound to feel let down in the absence of significant electoral victories or the absence of a concrete plan to prepare for the most crucial election in 2024. It appears that Mr. Gandhi does not want to be a full-time participant in the party's political journey. He needs to understand that politics has no place for part-timers and success cannot be achieved with half-minded devotion. If he wants to be a force to reckoned with, he must be a whole-time leader, make researched, powerful and well-thought-out statements and work towards a structured political goal.

V. RAHUL VENKTASUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

The multiple crises in Indian universities

Universities need greater funding, autonomy, and tolerance of activities by students and faculty

FEROZE VARUN GANDHI

The police stormed the Jamia Millia Islamia library, fired tear-gas shells and beat up students in December 2019. • R.V. MOORTHY

Are Indian universities under deliberate siege? Spending on higher education (as a % of government expenditure) has stagnated at 1.3-1.5% since 2012. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education continues to push higher education institutions to increase their intake capacity by 25% (in a push to implement the 10% quota for economically weaker sections), while the Ministry of Finance has sought to ban the creation of new teaching posts (Mohanty Basant Kumar, September 2020). At the central level, student financial aid was cut to ₹2,078 crore in FY 2022-23 from ₹2,482 crore in FY 2021-22; allocations for research and innovation were down by 8%, reaching ₹218 crore. Our once-great institutions of learning are beset by multiple crises - a financial crunch at the university level, a deficit in research opportunities for faculty, poor infrastructure and learning outcomes for students; with any protests hit hard by police brutality and campus repression. Is an apathetic, bureaucratic state preventing universities from blooming?

Cash-strapped institutions

Investments in university infrastructure have shrunk. Most Indian universities and colleges have overcrowded classrooms, poor ventilation and sanitation, and unsatisfactory hostel accommodation. The Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA), which provides funding for all infrastructure loans to institutions, saw its budget reduced from ₹2,000 crore in FY 20-21 to ₹1 crore in FY 21-22. Instead, universities have been forced to take loans, but have few avenues to tap into.

Even day-to-day running costs are hard to meet. The University Grants Commission (UGC) was allocated ₹4,900 crore in FY 2022-23 versus ₹4,693 in FY 2021-22, but stifled cash flow has led to delays in salary payments for deemed/central universities. Hence, most universities are running on a deficit – Madras University saw an accumulated deficit of over ₹100 crore, forcing it to seek a ₹88 crore grant from the State government (Raman A. Ragu, March 2022). Twelve colleges of Delhi University have seen a financial shortfall, with allocations by the state reduced by nearly half (for example, Deen Dayal Upadhayaya College was allocated ₹28 crore versus a requirement of ₹42 crore in 2021). Faculty members have faced salary delays for months, with salaries coming in weeks later (examples include Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, Delhi University, Visva-Bharati University, Nagaland University and Jharkhand University (Mohanty Basant Kumar, February 2021; Ara Ismat, November 2020). This has led to cuts in discretionary spending - many colleges in Delhi are unable to afford subscriptions to basic databases and journals. There is an urgent need to increased funding, along with establishing dedicated funding streams for infrastructure grants/loans and financial aid. Universities can also be freed up to utilise other revenue streams such as start-up royalties and advertising.

Research grants have also shriveled up. Grants under the UGC's minor and major research project schemes have declined from ₹42.7 crore in FY 2016-17 to ₹38 lakh in FY 2020-21 (Mohanty Basant Kumar, February 2022). India has over 1,040 universities, but just 2.7% offer PhD programmes, given paltry funding and poor infrastructure. The National Research Foundation (NRF), to improve research infrastructure in universities, has not yet been approved, and may have a limited budget ($5-6 billion spread over five years). Clearly, funding for research needs to rise significantly, with institutions like the NRF supplementing (and not replacing) existing schemes (including those from the Ministry of Science). Funding should also be allocated to enable course-based research experiences for undergraduates.

Fall in standards

Meanwhile, academic standards and processes are not being maintained. Examination paper leaks have become common - the Hindi examination of the National Eligibility Test of the UGC, which enables post-graduate students who pass to teach in State and Central colleges, was leaked in June 2021. Candidates have anecdotally highlighted examination centre operators charging ₹3 lakh per candidate to help them pass (Baruah Sukrita, July 2021). More recently, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University rescheduled exams for select B.Com and B.A courses after a paper was leaked. Such institutions have failed to protect the sanctity of their examinations. Improving this will require a decentralised approach, with universities allowed to take decisions on academic programmes, promotions, cohort size, etc.

India's universities have historically been bastions of free expression and a hub of nationalism. The Central Hindu College (Delhi), inaugurated by Madan Mohan Malaviya, was a centre for political debate during the freedom struggle, with students and teachers joining the Quit India movement, and involved in the defence of Rash Behari Bose and Lala Har Dayal in 1915. Students from the college were also involved in helping resettle partition refugees in 1947. Queen Mary's College, Chennai, is noted to have witnessed multiple pro-Quit India Movement protests. Students involved in these would often be detained on Marina Beach road penitentiary. More recently, students from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University, Delhi University, and Jamia Millia Islamia were associated with the anti-corruption movement, led by Anna Hazare. This delicate balance between the right to free expression and nationalism has been fostered across political regimes, with the leadership aware of the role of universities in strengthening democracy and civil society. And yet, of late, institutional apathy has given way to repression. Police action against students of select universities (JNU, Jamia Millia, for instance) for campus protests, along with arrests and incarceration, have cast a pall on free expression in campuses. Students and faculty members are routinely castigated as 'anti-national', among other epithets. We need to embrace tolerance for a diversity of views in our campuses - our students have formative experiences there and must have the space to define themselves as individuals. If free expression is not fostered, how will our universities champion critical thinking?

India's higher education institutions exist in a funerary state. This is reflected in global rankings - there are just eight Indian universities in the Top 500 in the QS World University Rankings. The National Education Policy (2020) has sought to foster critical thinking and problem solving, along with social, ethical and emotional capacities and dispositions. Enabling this will require an encouraging ecosystem, with greater funding, autonomy and tolerance of universities (and activities by students/faculty). Without this, talented Indian citizens will continue to escape abroad, while policymakers lament India's brain drain.

Feroze Varun Gandhi is a Member of Parliament, representing the Pilibhit constituency for the BJP

The government in business

India, like the Chinese and Singapore governments, can earn much more from government investments

TRILOCHAN SASTRY

The Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) invests internationally in equities. It owned shares worth about ₹1.09 lakh crore at the end of March 2022 in India alone. Around the world, GIC investments amount to about ₹55 lakh crore. GIC is the eight largest wealth management fund in the world. The money doubled in real terms in the last 20 years. This money is also used by the government for public welfare. Another arm of the Singapore government, Temasek Holdings, has investments worth ₹22 lakh crore. Their investments dwarf some aspects of the Indian economy itself: the Indian government's budget expenditure for 2022-23 is ₹39.45 lakh crore. The Singapore government's investments are many times that.

China is doing the same. The Municipal Government of Hefei invested $787 million to acquire a 17% stake in Nio's core business and shortly after that exited making a profit of 5.5 times its investment. By 2017, Chinese government-owned companies had invested ₹67.5 lakh crore in overseas companies. This is about 27% of India's GDP.

Only disinvestment

Meanwhile, in India, we are disinvesting. The total market value of Indian government holdings is only ₹13 lakh crore, far less than China or even Singapore. Overseas holdings through these companies is negligible. The Navratna PSUs are performing well, but are being sold. Instead, can they invest overseas and increase their wealth as China is doing? In China, one company, the China National Petroleum Corporation, has assets of over $600 billion. There is no move there to disinvest. Perhaps the Chinese government wants to use the economic clout of its PSUs for its global ambitions. As China increases its global influence, India is bartering away one source of such influence - its ability to invest overseas and create greater economic clout.

The prevailing ideology that the government has no business to be in business is used to justify disinvestment. The real reason is the growing government deficit. Some key corporate investors are waiting in the wings to gain full control of India's natural resources through these disinvestments. It is like killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. For instance, the total dividend earned by the Indian government through PSUs is ₹50,000 crore. If India learns from the Chinese and Singapore governments, it can earn much more from government investments as well. India uses a western ideology about government-owned companies, but forgets that what the West preaches is for others and what it practices is in national self-interest. The world's list of top asset-holding PSUs includes the U.S., Israel and the European Union counties. But there are none from India.

India has allowed the baggage of inefficient PSUs to cloud its thinking. While the smaller and loss-making ones need to be disinvested, the profitable ones can be reformed. The only problem in India is archaic rules governing PSUs and political interference. There is excellent talent in the PSUs. Other talent from the private sector can also be brought in. Salaries for key top personnel should be in line with worldwide best practices, along with real accountability. The success of enterprises and startups shows that there is abundant managerial talent, which needs to be harnessed in national interest.

Learning lessons

If we avoid the smoke screen of ideology, there are many reasons for learning from other countries, notably Singapore. The first is national and public interest. The source of wealth has shifted from land to natural resources, to the industrial sector and now to the knowledge economy. Assets are largely in the financial markets today. There is enough and more wealth to be made there as wealth funds, well-known international investors and some other governments around the world are doing. If the Indian government invests like Singapore, that will give it much more funds than disinvestment ever can. Meanwhile, ownership remains intact. A few caveats are required. Singapore invests in long-term assets, and does not take risky decisions. Another powerful reason is managing government finances. India is raising taxes by the week, especially on diesel and petrol. The only avenue for revenue generation seems to be taxes. However, markets, wealth management and dividends are not explored. If markets create wealth, why can't the government create it and use it for creating prosperity for the public?

India is capable of doing this if we look for talent from our financial markets rather than from the government only. The example from the 1980s in telecom, recent examples of Aadhaar, and the creation of a government platform called ONDC to increase marketing power of ordinary kirana stores shows how private sector talent can be harnessed for public good. There are well-known entrepreneurs and wealth managers in the stock markets. The government can surely use their talent for the greater public good.

Trilochan Sastry is Professor, IIM Bangalore

STATE OF PLAY

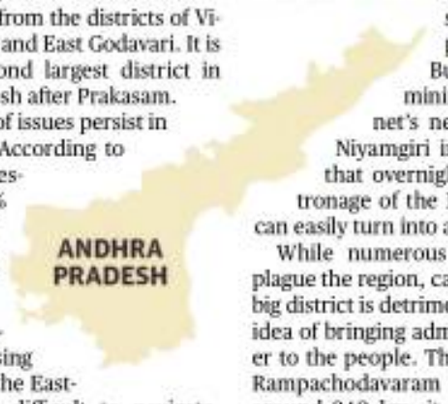
A region with too many issues

Several questions have arisen about the need to create the district of Alluri Sitharamaraju

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE

On April 24, around midnight, the Konta Area Committee of the banned CPI (Maoist) set fire to a private bus, after asking the 40 passengers in the bus to alight, on the National Highway near Sarivela in Chintoor agency area of the newly created Alluri Sitharamaraju district of Andhra Pradesh. As this incident took place despite the Maoist movement in this part of the region being at its lowest ebb, questions have arisen about the need to create this district.

The recent exercise of bifurcation and re-organisation of districts by the State government has led to the number of districts growing from 13 to 26. Alluri Sitharamaraju, which has a high tribal population and low population density, was created after carving out areas from the districts of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari. It is now the second largest district in Andhra Pradesh after Prakasam.



A number of issues persist in this district. According to conservative estimates, 80% of Alluri Sitharamaraju is said to be forested. area. The terrain comprising steep hills of the Eastern Ghats is difficult to navigate. About 50% of the district is yet to be connected by roads and communication lines. Every year, viral fever, dengue, chikungunya, typhoid and malaria affect the population. Deaths from these diseases are high as there are inadequate medical facilities in the region. Primary health centres and community health centres are far flung. There are several media reports about pregnant women and infants dying on their way to the nearest health centres, after being carried on makeshift 'dolis', as ambulances have no access to hundreds of villages in the district. The availability of good quality drinking water has been an issue in agency areas. Many villages continue to depend on polluted perennial streams. To make matters worse, the 11 mandals of Paderu, the administrative headquarters of the district, have gained notoriety in recent times for being the hub for ganja cultivation.

Since the late 1980s, the Maoists have enjoyed considerable sway in this area. Today, though the movement is far from powerful, there is fear that it could be revived as the district shares borders with Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha, all of which are said to be part of the 'Red Corridor'. The district is under the control of J. Satish Kumar, Superintendent of Police, who has four Additional Superintendents to man the vast district, with 30 police stations and five armed police outposts.

Alluri Sitharamaraju is rich in minerals. It contains reserves of bauxite and laterite and abundant reserves of semi-precious stones. But a small hint of mining can stir a hornet's nest. The case of Niyamgiri in Odisha shows that overnight, with the patronage of the Maoists, a place can easily turn into a war zone.

While numerous issues already plague the region, carving out such a big district is detrimental to the basic idea of bringing administration closer to the people. The distance from Rampachodavaram to Paderu is around 240 km, it is 210 km from Chintoor to Paderu and 274 km from Yatapaka to Paderu. Travel from these areas to the district headquarters takes six to 10 hours. The district has 22 mandals with 11 carved out of Visakhapatnam and seven out of Rampachodavaram and four out of Yatapaka of East Godavari. Many serving and former bureaucrats have joined the people of Rampachodavaram and Yatapaka to suggest that a separate district be created out of their region with Bhadrachalam as the district headquarters. This will not only reduce travel time and solve logistical issues, but also ensure that the Adivasis get special care.

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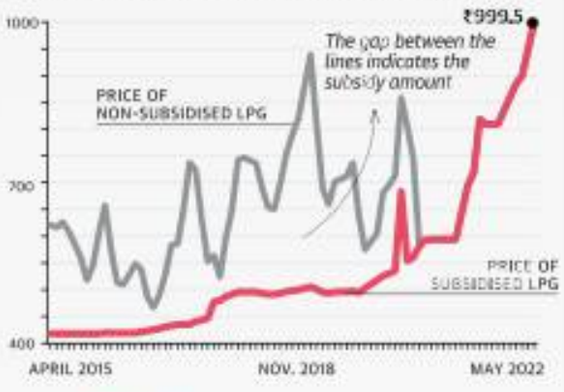
DATA POINT

The burden of gas prices

The price of subsidised domestic LPG increased by over ₹400 between November 2020 and May 2022 in India. The rapid rise was due to two factors. One was the drastic fall in the LPG subsidy amount that was being directly transferred to consumers' accounts since 2015. In recent days the sharp rise in international LPG prices have added to the burden. Due to high prices, close to 60% of the households in India are using clean cooking fuel (electricity, LPG/natural gas, biogas) according to NFHS-5 (2019-21). In rural areas, close to 45% of households use clean cooking fuel. High prices and no subsidy is the reason for the poor usage as 99.8% of households have an LPG connection. By **Jasmin Nihalani** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

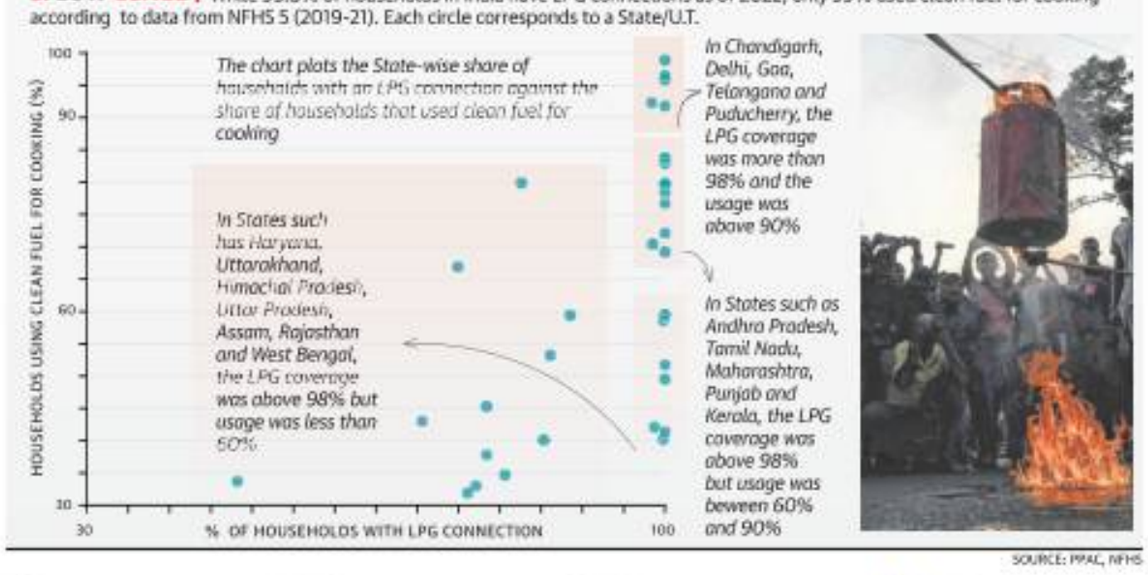
1. NO SUBSIDY | Since May 2020, no subsidy has been announced for domestic cylinders in Delhi. Following a sharp rise in international LPG prices, consumers have been paying higher rates, which on May 7 rose to ₹999.5 per cylinder in Delhi



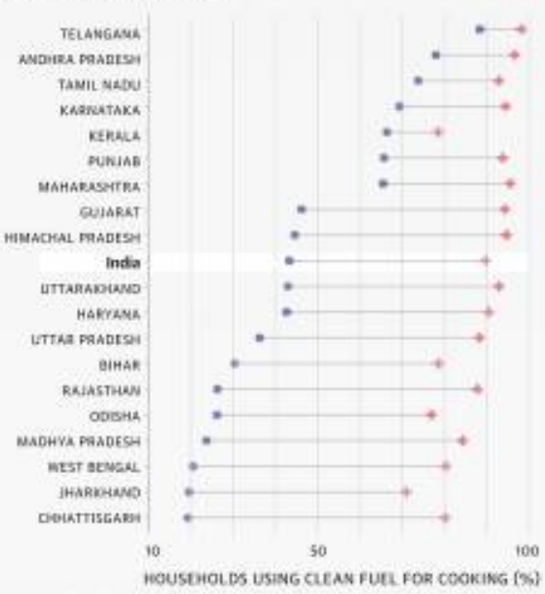
2. FOB PRICES

The chart shows the international free on board (FOB*) price of LPG in $ per metric tonne between January 2019 and March 2022. The FOB price of LPG has been on a rising trend and in March 2022, it was the highest in at least the past three years

3. LOW USAGE | While 99.8% of households in India have LPG connections as of 2022, only 59% used clean fuel for cooking according to data from NFHS 5 (2019-21). Each circle corresponds to a State/U.T.



4. URBAN-RURAL DISPARITY | The chart plots the share of households that used clean fuel for cooking in urban + and rural areas ●. The use of clean fuel for cooking was significantly lower in rural areas. In Gujarat, the usage was as high as 94% among the urban households while it was only 46% in rural households



*Weighted average of Saudi Aramco contract price for butane (60%) & propane (40%) for previous month and also includes daily quotes of premium / discount (published by Platts Gaswire) averaged for the previous month

SOURCE: PPAC, NFHS

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 9, 1972

U.S. bombs military base near Hanoi

Saigon, May 8: American Navy jets struck at a military base and training camp about 24 km west of Hanoi to-day, the American Command announced. Radio Hanoi said two of the planes were shot down, but the Command denied it. The command announced the raids within hours of a Hanoi broadcast which charged that the actual targets were dikes and agricultural areas in the Red River delta south of Hanoi. By Hanoi's account it was the fifth day of major raids above the demilitarised zone (DMZ). A U.S. Command spokesman said: "Tactical aircraft of the U.S. Navy to-day struck military targets approximately 24 km west of Hanoi. There were no B-52's involved in the strikes. The tactical aircraft hit military targets which included storage facilities, barracks and training facilities which are helping to support the communist invasion across the DMZ. All U.S. aircraft returned safely from the strikes. No further details are available." Highly reliable sources in Hanoi said American aircraft today attacked five provinces around the North Vietnamese capital. The sources said the official announcement was being withheld while the authorities tried to assess the damage, and a communique would be issued later.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 9, 1922

Sarojini Naidu's speech

Amritsar, May 2: Addressing a mammoth gathering of twenty five to thirty thousand men and women of the Panjab assembled in the Market of Batala Srimati Sarojini Naidu, in the course of a thrilling oration in Urdu, said for three long years she had been restless to see her suffering Panjabi brothers. She had suffered in their suffering; she had partaken of their agony. Today after the lapse of three years, her wounds were still fresh. When she was away in England, she considered herself unlucky that she could not go on a pilgrimage to the Jallianwalla Bagh. But she did not think, for one moment of mourning for those living martyrs who had quitted this earth for Swarga (heaven). She could not weigh her grief in the scales that grief was so overwhelming. She did not know how to console them, what consolation could she offer their crumpled hearts, what balm could she lay on their lacerated wounds?

FROM PAGE ONE

Russia bombs shelter, 60 'dead'

Casting a look back at World War II, the leaders stressed unity in their resolve that Putin must not win.

"We owe it to the memory of all those who fought for freedom in the Second World War, to continue fighting for it today, for the people of Ukraine, Europe and the global community," they said.

Civilians evacuated

In the ruined southeastern port city of Mariupol, scores of civilians have been evacuated from a sprawling steel plant in a week-long operation brokered by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Mr. Zelensky said in an address late on Saturday that over 300 civilians had been rescued from the Azovstal steelworks and authorities would now focus on evacuating the injured and medics. Other Ukrainian sources have cited different figures. Russian-backed separatists on Saturday reported a total of 176 civilians evacuated from the plant.

In an emotional address on Sunday for Victory Day, when Europe commemorates the formal surrender of Germany to the Allies in World War Two, Mr. Zelensky said evil had returned to Ukraine with the Russian invasion, but his country would prevail.

In another development, underlining Western support for Ukraine, Britain pledged to provide a further 1.3 billion pounds ($1.6 billion) in military support and aid, double its previous spending commitments.

Court flays police in Jahangirpuri case

Judge accuses the force of 'utter failure' in controlling 'illegal procession', seeks probe into complicity

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Denying bail to eight of the accused arrested for the Jahangirpuri communal violence last month, a local court in Rohini has asked the Delhi police to fix accountability on local officials, who, it said, instead of stopping an illegal Hanuman Jayanti procession, marched alongside it which later led to "riots" in the area.

The court of Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Gagandeep Singh in Rohini was hearing the bail applications of the eight accused – Imteyaz, Noor Alam, Sheikh Hamid, Ahmad Ali, Sheikh Hamid, S.K. Sahahada, Sheikh Zakir and Ahir – all of whom argued that they were from the labour class and sole bread earners in their families and that they had been falsely implicated in the case.

RAF jawans stand guard as a Muslim man walks with children on Id-ul-Fitr in Jahangirpuri area on May 3, 2022. •PTI

The prosecution, represented by Chief Public Prosecutor Maqsood Ahmed, argued that the accused were arrested on April 17 based on eyewitness statements and identification through CCTV footage. It added that "other witnesses are being motivated to come forward to give their version, but they are not coming forward as the accused/applicant and other culprits are known criminals in the area".

The court considered this argument and said that given the prosecution's apprehensions as such, the possibility of the accused threatening or influencing witnesses could not be ruled out if they were enlarged on bail and thus dismissed their applications.

However, before parting with his order, Mr. Singh pulled up the Delhi police for their "utter failure" to stop an illegal procession that had no prior permission from them. "The issue seems to have been simply brushed aside by the senior officers. The liability on the part of the officials concerned needs to be fixed so that in future no such incident takes place and the police are not complacent in preventing the illegal activities. Their complicity, if any, also needs to be investigated," Mr. Singh noted, marking the May 7 order to the "Worthy Commissioner of Police".

The court also said that the sequence of events, as described by the police themselves in the FIR, showed that the Hanuman Jayanti procession at 6 p.m. did not have the required permission even though the two processions held before that did. "If that was the situation, then the contents of the FIR itself show that the local staff of the Jahangirpuri police station, led by Inspector Rajiv Ranjan as well as other officials from DCP reserve were accompanying the said illegal procession on its route instead of stopping it. It appears that the local police instead of performing their duty in stopping the said illegal procession and dispersing the crowd, were accompanying them ," the court noted in its order.

Hours after the court order was made public, the Delhi police issued a statement on Sunday explaining why the police officials accompanying the illegal procession did not immediately disperse it.

IN BRIEF

'Western nations must pay for climate change'

NEW DELHI

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Sunday said India's per capita carbon emission is among the lowest in the world and hence the western industrialized nations should shoulder the bulk of the financial burden for combating climate change. Addressing a conference at Chandigarh University, the Minister also stressed the need to strike a balance between development and environment. He said India's environmental policy is about equity and justice.

DoT abolishes NOCC charges for all licensees

NEW DELHI

To enhance ease of doing business, the Department of Telecom (DoT) has removed Network Operation and Control Centre (NOCC) charges for the use of space segments for all services such as VSAT and satellite telephony for which permits are issued by the department. The DoT earlier levied ₹21 lakh per transponder a year for 36 megahertz of spectrum on a pro-rata basis as NOCC charges. Besides this, the department also levied NOCC charges of ₹6,000 for every trial of antenna that are used for receiving and transmitting signals. PTI

HC takes note of rehabilitation scam

GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has taken note of a scam involving the rehabilitation of 156 Chakma tribal families displaced by the Hollongi greenfield airport in Arunachal Pradesh. The ₹1,200-crore airport, coming up near State capital Itanagar, had led to the fall of the Congress and the rise of the BJP in Arunachal Pradesh in 2016. According to a PIL plea filed by the affected families in 2021 seeking a CBI probe into the scam, about ₹35.92 crore meant for their rehabilitation and resettlement never reached them. It was instead siphoned off by the Magistrate of the State's Papum Pare district.

'Citizenship delayed, Pak. Hindus left India'

According to Mr. Singh, there are 25,000 Pakistani Hindus in Rajasthan alone who have been awaiting citizenship, some for more than two decades. Many of them have applied in the offline mode.

In 2015, the Ministry amended the Citizenship Rules and legalised the stay of foreign migrants belonging to six communities, who had entered India on or before December 2014 due to persecution on grounds of religion, by exempting them from the provisions of the Passport Act and the Foreigners Act as their passports had expired.

Persons seeking refuge in India either come on long-term visas (LTV) or pilgrim visas. The LTVs, given for five years, are a precursor to citizenship.

Religious persecution

The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in 2011 decided to grant LTVs to hundreds of Hindus and Sikhs who came to India alleging religious persecution in Pakistan. Many came on pilgrim visas and continued to stay here after the expiry of their passports.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, intended to benefit undocumented (illegal) migrants from the six persecuted communities in the three neighbouring countries who entered India before December 31, 2014, is yet to come into force as the rules that govern the law have not been notified by the Ministry yet. The CAA could have helped legal minority migrants in fast-tracking their applications as it reduced the mandatory requirement of 11 years to five years to be eligible for citizenship, though many who await citizenship and arrived via the legal route have already spent more than 11 years in India.

Provide legal aid to undertrials: SC judge

Over 82 lakh cases pending in U.P.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court Judge Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on Sunday said providing legal aid to individuals is "the need of the hour now" as undertrials languish in prison across the country for lack of effective legal representation. He referred to the 82.4 lakh criminal cases pending in the courts of Uttar Pradesh alone.

The judge was speaking at the centennial celebrations of the Benares Hindu University'law faculty, highlighting how law schools should focus on clinical legal education with their own legal aid clinics to help communities. He said law schools should no longer remain "isolated islands of excellence divorced from their surrounding communities, but become active participants in them".

"According to the National Judicial Data Grid, the Allahabad High Court has 4,65,496 pending criminal cases, out of which the largest majority of cases have been pending for the last 10 to 20 years. Similarly, the District Courts in Uttar Pradesh have 82,41,560 pending criminal cases, out of which nearly 30% were filed in the last year itself," Justice Chandrachud said.

He said the prison statistics for 2020 released by the National Crime Records Bureau, show that Uttar Pradesh has reported the highest number of undertrial prisoners in its jails, totaling 80,577, which constitute 21.7% of the overall number of undertrials in India.

"I have only taken the example of Uttar Pradesh, since it is home to BHU, but the situation is similar in many other states. I use these numbers to highlight how overburdened the courts and jails are," Justice Chandrachud noted.

Himachal police book Sikhs for Justice leader

Khalistani banners found on the gates of State Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Himachal Pradesh police on Sunday booked U.S.-based Sikhs For Justice leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Sections of the Indian Penal Code after Khalistani banners were found on the gates of the State Assembly complex in Dharamshala and graffiti scrawled on its walls.

Congress MLA Vikramaditya Singh, along with party workers, stages a protest against 'Khalistan' movement on Sunday. •PTI

Amid some pro-Khalistan activities in parts of Himachal and other neighbouring States and the announcement of June 6 as Khalistan "referendum day", the State police chief ordered the "sealing" of the border and beefing up State-wide security at sensitive and crowded places.

The State border has been "sealed" to regulate movements of suspicious elements and the police are keeping a strict vigil.

Himachal Pradesh Director-General of Police Sanjay Kundu said Pannun had been booked as the main accused under Section 13 of the UAPA and Sections 153 A and 153 B of the Indian Penal Code, besides Section 3 of the HP Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 1985. Mr. Kundu said the FIR against Pannun and others was lodged on the complaint of Ram Chand alias Ajay Kumar of Kaned village under Dharamshala tehsil of the Kangra district.

The State police chief also set up a seven-member special investigation team to expeditiously investigate the case.

(With PTI inputs)

Man who set off Indore building fire arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INDORE

The police have arrested the 27-year-old man who had allegedly ignited a fire in a three-storey residential building that left seven dead and nine injured here in Madhya Pradesh, an official said on Sunday.

He set fire to the scooter of a woman residing in the building on Saturday after she rejected his marriage offer. The fire spread and engulfed the premises leading to the casualties.

The accused, Shubham, alias Sanjay Dixit, was nabbed on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

IndiGo bars differently-abled child from boarding

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

IndiGo barred a differently-abled child from boarding a flight at the Ranchi airport as he was in "a state of panic", following which the aviation regulator DGCA has started a probe and asked the airline to submit a report, officials said on Sunday.

As the boy was prohibited from boarding the airline's Ranchi-Hyderabad flight on Saturday, his parents also decided to not take the flight, they noted.

DGCA chief Arun Kumar told *PTI* that the regulator has sought a report from IndiGo on this matter. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is probing this incident and it will take appropriate action, he said.

When asked about the incident, IndiGo said, "In view of the safety of passengers, a differently-abled child could not board the flight with his family on May 7, as he was in a state of panic." The ground staff waited for him to calm down till the last minute but to no avail, it said.

The airline provided them a hotel stay and let them fly the next morning, it said.

" IndiGo prides itself on being an inclusive organisation; and over 75,000 differently-abled passengers fly with IndiGo every month," it said.

Two Lashkar men killed in Kulgam operation: police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an anti-militancy operation in Kulgam of south Kashmir on Sunday.

The police identified the two slain terrorists as Haider, a Pakistani, and Shahbaz Shah, a resident of Kulgam district.

They were trapped during a joint pre-dawn operation of the security forces at Cheyan village in the Devsar area of Kulgam.

Haider was involved in two recent terror crimes in Bandipora, in which two policemen, Mohammad Sultan and Fayaz, were killed, Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

In the second incident, Special Police Officer Zubair Ahmad was killed and three security personnel – one an assistant sub-inspector of the BSF – were injured, Mr. Kumar said.

Haider had been active in north Kashmir for more than two years and was behind several terror crimes, the police said.

Disinvestment lull likely after LIC IPO

Some hurdles remain to be crossed for firms in strategic sale pipeline

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Even as the LIC IPO is expected to sail through on Monday, helping the Centre meet about a third of its disinvestment target for the year, there is likely to be a lull in the privatisation drive of big-ticket public sector enterprises over the next few months.

While oil marketing major BPCL is finding no takers at this point and the sale process would be rebooted later, the next set of public sector companies in the divestment pipeline will take some months to move forward.

Transition challenges

These include IDBI Bank, the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), the Container Corporation of India Ltd (Concor) and the BEML, along with a couple of others, where restructuring of assets needs to be undertaken and other transition challenges must be overcome before their sale process is kicked off, indicated senior Finance Ministry officials.

"We will restart the BPCL transaction later, but as of now, we expect to issue the preliminary information memorandum for IDBI Bank before Concor," a senior official at the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) in the Finance Ministry said.

There are still some issues to be sorted out with the Railways in terms of land leasing arrangements before the sale of the Centre's 30.8% stake in Concor along with management control will be taken up.

In the SCI's case, its head office Shipping House, located right next to the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha, would have needed the State government's approval for inclusion in the sale process.

It has been decided that the building, along with a training institute it owns in Pune, will be demerged from the SCI before it is hived off.

"The SCI board had a meeting on Friday, where the demerger process was also taken up. What is to be done with the demerged assets will be decided later, but the process is time-consuming," the official explained. Similarly, Karnataka-based BEML has several acres of land in Bengaluru and Mysuru that need to be demerged before its privatisation process moves forward.

Awaiting completion

The sale of the Nagarnar Steel Plant (NSP), a three million tonne integrated plant set up by the National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd, is also awaiting the completion of the demerger process.

In October 2016, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had decided to disinvest the NSP as a unit of the NMDC, but amended the decision in October 2020 with a view to carve out the NSP as a separate company from the NMDC and sell the new firm to a strategic buyer. At the time, the sale was expected to be completed by September 2021.

The government has budgeted for disinvestment receipts of ₹65,000 crore for the year, the lowest target in six years.

A minority stake sale in ONGC and the LIC IPO's closure will take the year's receipts to about ₹24,059 crore, which could go up to ₹24,270 crore by June after the completion of the Centre's 51% stake sale in helicopter operator Pawan Hans.

An ambitious ₹1.75 lakh crore target was set for disinvestment in 2021-22, which was later revised to ₹78,000 crore, but even that was missed by a wide margin as LIC's IPO was delayed to this financial year due to sharp volatility in the stock markets.

Expressions of interest had been received for the privatisation of the HLL Lifecare Limited in mid-March and the transaction is being processed.

For Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited, a 100% subsidiary of the MSTC Ltd, expressions of interest were invited till May 5, but details are still awaited on the response it evinced.

UAE Minister to lead business team this week

CEPA lets preferential market access

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

UAE Minister of Economy Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri will be leading a high-level business delegation to India this week to discuss ways to further promote trade and investments between the two countries, an official said.

The visit, from May 11 to 15, assumes significance as both the countries have implemented the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on May 1.

UAE's Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises is also part of the delegation.

The CEPA is expected to boost bilateral trade to $100 billion in the next five years, from $60 billion at present.

Under the trade agreement, domestic exporters in various sectors such as textiles, agriculture, dry fruits, gems and jewellery are availing duty-free access to the UAE market.

The delegation would visit Delhi and Mumbai and will hold discussions with industry leaders.

Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri

The nearly 70-member delegation represents different sectors such as food, special economic zones, sovereign wealth funds and aviation.

The UAE is one of the largest trading partners of India and that country is a gateway to West Asia, North Africa, Central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Overall, India will benefit from preferential market access provided by the UAE on over 97% of its tariff lines (or goods), which account for 99% of Indian exports to the UAE in value terms – particularly from labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, and engineering products.

Kejriwal scared of my son, says Bagga's father

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga's father Pritpal Singh Sunday claimed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is scared of his son and is using the Punjab Police to intimidate the family.

He said the last few days - referring to Mr. Bagga's arrest by the Punjab Police from his residence on Friday and his subsequent release, and then a non-bailable arrest warrant issued by a Mohali court - have been very tough for them but they are "prepared to fight for the truth".

Pritpal Singh also said that they were getting a lot of support from the common man in Punjab and that the public opinion is in their favour.

APPEAL

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Muthukumar

INTERVIEW | LT. GEN. D.S. HOODA (RETD.)

'LAC crisis has been a wake-up call in how we deal with China'

India must continue to insist on restoring *status quo ante* while dealing with the change in China's behaviour since Xi took over, says former Northern Army Commander

ANANTH KRISHNAN

This month marks two years since the start of the crisis along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) following transgressions by China's PLA. After 15 rounds of talks, both sides have disengaged in some areas but others, such as Patrolling Point 15 in Hot Springs, Demchok and Depsang, remain unresolved. The crisis has been "a wake-up call" in dealing with the military threat from China, says **Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda (retd.)**, *former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Army Command who dealt with both China and Pakistan during a four-decade-long military career. India must continue to insist on restoring the status quo ante, while dealing with what has been a clear change in China's behaviour since President Xi Jinping took office in 2013. Edited excerpts.*

How do you see the situation on the LAC, as it stands now, two years into the crisis?

■ I would describe the situation as an uneasy stalemate. Two years have now passed, and as you know, we still haven't achieved what we wanted to in terms of disengagement and de-escalation. There has been some progress in the areas of Hot Springs, and in the north and south bank of Pangong Tso.

But then, despite 15 rounds of Corps Commander-level meetings, numerous WMCC [Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China border affairs] meetings that have taken place, high-level political contacts at the level of Foreign Ministers, Defence Ministers, National Security Advisers, there hasn't been a significant breakthrough. What I'm describing as a significant breakthrough is the fact that complete disengagement and de-escalation takes place.

Let me also add here that even if there is some further limited disengagement – they are talking about PP15, there could be some disengagement from that area – I don't think we are going back to the time of what we called peace and tranquillity along the LAC. This is because, frankly, trust has been broken. All the Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) that were in place were completely ignored when the Chinese came in, in May 2020.

I think tensions are going to remain, and you're going to see a stronger deployment of soldiers along the LAC. There are going to be changes in border management protocols and how we looked at LAC management. I think too much water has flowed under the bridge for us to contemplate that even if we do arrive at some kind of agreement, that we can go back to the pre-2020 situation of LAC management. I don't think we are going to get to that.

Is the *status quo ante* that India is asking for, but which the Chinese haven't mentioned, still possible? And should that be a bottom line for India?

■ Firstly, how do we define *status quo ante*? Are we saying, exactly the situation as it existed prior to 2020? That situation is not going to happen because we've already agreed on certain areas of disengagement. We've agreed that there will be no-patrolling zones in those areas. This is obviously a different condition from what existed earlier. However, if we define *status quo ante* as that the PLA must pull back its soldiers from areas where they had come in, in 2020, across our perception of the LAC, that is the more sort of practical understanding of what *status quo ante* is.

My view is we have to stand firm on this. We must insist on this. Not only the areas that we are currently discussing, but also areas like Depsang and Demchok. Depsang particularly is of vital tactical importance to us. The reason why I say we must continue to insist is if you're looking for a long-term resolution of this problem, unless there is a withdrawal by the PLA of their soldiers who had come across, you're going to see tensions persist. Troops will remain on both sides. I don't see a pullback happening on the Indian side if the PLA insists it is going to remain in those areas where it had come across. Why we need to insist on the *status quo ante* is because, for me, that is the only way you will get peace and calm back on the LAC. Otherwise, we're not going to get it.

I don't think we are going back to the time of what we called peace and tranquillity along the LAC

And that would include access to all the patrolling points that India hasn't been able to reach for some time now?

■ Access to patrolling points should also be an area that we must insist on. How else do you establish control over what you consider your territory, if you're not going to be able to patrol it? Merely by saying that, this is our area, and this is what we claim, the fact is that we were doing this physically by patrolling. Protocols were that people would go, and they would leave some food wrappers, etc. just to show this is our area, we've been here. Restoring patrolling points must be one of the key elements of our negotiations.

Are the past CBMs that India and China have had, going back to 1993 and even earlier, no longer relevant in this new situation along the LAC?

■ There is one view that we have had these CBMs which have held the peace for so many years, so why is there a need to revisit these CBMs, let's go back to them, and there is no need to look at new things. My own personal experience, having served in these areas and seen what has happened over the past six, seven years, is that slowly these CBMs had already been diluted. For example, you saw in Depsang in 2013, Chumar in 2014, troops were coming across the LAC and putting themselves up permanently. You also saw increasing physical scuffles that were taking place. During Doklam in 2017, we saw at Pangong Tso a video of heavy stone throwing that was being done. Some of these CBMs were already being diluted.

I think there is a need to look at some fresh areas, at what is it that is causing friction now. For patrolling behaviour and patrolling patterns, the CBMs state that when patrols come face to face, they should go back after unfurling their banner. That is not happening. So how should patrolling behaviour be regulated?
Second, we need to identify disputed areas.

The third area is connected with infrastructure development. This, on some occasions, causes tension on both sides. In areas like Demchok where there are civil populations very close to the LAC, there is some constant tension over what you are building, on both sides of the LAC.

Do you see a connection between the growing tensions since 2013 and the change in the PLA's behaviour with Xi Jinping coming to power that year?

■ I was there, and definitely saw a change in 2013. There is no doubt about it. In 2014, when President Xi was in India, we had this fairly large incursion into the Chumar area. A lot of people said, why would he deliberately do this at a time when he was visiting India? The fact is, it wasn't a small incursion. It wasn't done by local troops. Just across Chumar, we had a small post, not more than 40, 50 people. But what came across, the total strength that came into the area, was around 3,000. So it wasn't something that a local commander did or that was not known to the PLA hierarchy or political leadership. I don't buy that. Certainly, the behaviour has changed 2013-14 onwards.

With the current crisis too, do you see it as unlikely that such mobilisations by the PLA would have been possible without the green light from the top leadership?

■ It's impossible. It's impossible that such a large-scale and coordinated action – remember it happened all across the front in eastern Ladakh, starting from the north, and going right down the south till Demchok – this is not something that was done locally. There were some exercises that were going on, and from an exercise to come across the LAC, behave in such an aggressive fashion ... Even before Galwan happened, there was use of force to push people into these areas like Pangong Tso, we saw physical activities taking place. Clearly there were orders given, that you will do this and you will reach whatever they considered as their sort of claimed area. I just don't buy this argument that this was some kind of a local incident.

Looking to the future, what should be the priority for India's military preparedness in dealing with China?

■ Our military preparedness, our ability to manage the border, has certainly improved. We've got additional troops in. There is a great push for infrastructure development that is taking place along the northern borders. You are also seeing plans to realign major forces from the western front to the northern front. One whole strike corps plus a few other divisions have been told that the primary task is not the western border, but the northern border. In terms of military capability, this is not something that can happen in a jiffy, but plans are in place and I'm sure as time passes by, capability along the northern borders is going to improve.

Has this crisis, in one sense, reduced this asymmetry by focusing attention on the northern borders?

■ It has, in some ways, woken us up to the reality of the Chinese military threat. Earlier, the feeling always was that the border is likely to remain peaceful, we have the CBMs, so we should be able to deal with China politically and diplomatically, that it will not come to China using military force. Now that it has actually happened, the way we look at China as a threat, that realisation has come. There is greater focus on infrastructure development, greater focus on realigning our military capability. We had larger forces aligned on the western border than on the northern border. That in itself is shifting. It has been a wake-up call that was necessary.

(Visit https://bit.ly/LtGen-Hooda for full interview)

No clarity yet on mode of picking Cong. chief

Debate on whether all six crore party members should be given a say

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

As the Congress gets ready for the *Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir* (brainstorming session) in Udaipur from May 13, many within the party are wondering if the brainstorming session will bring clarity to the leadership issue.

A section in the party internally debated if the more than six crore party members can directly participate in deciding who should be the new party chief by September this year.

Sources in the central election authority (CEA), however, dismissed the idea, arguing that it would require a change in the party Constitution and could not be done at such short notice.

The process of election and the leadership question are of utmost importance to the Congress after a string of electoral losses and open rebellion by members of the G-23, the ginger group that pushed for internal reforms through a letter to party president Sonia Gandhi two years ago.

A party member who batted for a direct election process claimed that former party chief Rahul Gandhi too was in favour, but sources in the CEA argued an electoral college of more than six crore members was simply not possible to manage.

Old order: Since November 2000 the top post of the Congress has always remained with the Gandhis.

The debate surfaced, said a source, once the party completed its membership drive on April 15 during which more than two crore members were digitally enrolled or renewed.

Right now, the Congress president is elected by the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates, who are elected from among District Congress Committees (DCCs) and Block Committees that are, in turn, elected by members of booth level or primary committee.

The electoral college for electing the Congress Working Committee (CWC) members is formed by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) whose members are chosen from the PCC and the DCCs.

"Some people may have had a discussion on some possible changes but the CEA will have to hold the election as mandated by the party Constitution," said a member of the party's election authority.

"In the current system, about 8,000-9,000 PCC delegates would elect the Congress president. This is a manageable number, not six crore plus".

As per the schedule of organisational elections, a new party chief will be "elected" by September but there is still no indication if there would be a contest or a "unanimous" choice.

A section of the Gandhi family loyalists is pushing for the return of Mr. Gandhi as full-time party chief but he has not yet spelt out his intention whether or not he would be a candidate in the internal polls. Some though see his pro-active stance in visiting States such as Gujarat and Telangana as an indication of his willingness to shoulder more responsibility.

On the other hand, some G-23 leaders, such as former Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha P. J. Kurien, have gone public that a non-Gandhi should be the party chief while Mr. Gandhi should lead the party in Parliament.

Some others argue that Ms. Gandhi should continue until 2024 to avoid further turbulence.

Value of MPs' vote for President poll to go down

It is due to absence of J&K Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The value of the vote of an MP in the presidential polls to be held in July is likely to go down to 700 from 708 due to the absence of a Legislative Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

The value of the vote of an MP in a presidential election is based on the number of elected members in Legislative Assemblies of States and Union Territories, including Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Electoral College for the presidential election comprises the members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha and those of the Legislative Assemblies of the States and Union Territories.

Before it was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir in August 2019, the erstwhile State of J&K had 83 Assembly seats. According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the Union Territory of J&K will have an Assembly, while Ladakh will be governed directly by the Centre. The government had announced that election to the Assembly would be held after the completion of the delimitation of Assembly constituencies.

The value of an MP's vote has been 708 since the 1997 presidential election.

Northeast organisations warn of anti-CAA stir

Amit Shah to visit Assam from May 9

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Various organisations in Northeast India have threatened to resume their agitation against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019 if the Centre tries to implement it.

The warning has been sounded ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day tour of Assam from May 9 for a slew of events coinciding with the completion of one year of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government.

The government headed by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in on May 10, 2021.

In Meghalaya capital Shillong, the Khasi Students' Union (KSU) said any attempt to implement the CAA would lead to unrest in the State. The Centre, instead, should implement the inner-line permit system in Meghalaya to check the entry of "illegal immigrants".

The inner-line permit is a temporary travel document issued under an 1873 regulation. This permit requires Indians to possess one while entering four States of the northeast - Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland.

Amit Shah

"We will always oppose the CAA, pandemic or no pandemic," KSU president Lambokstar Marngar told journalists in Shillong while reacting to Mr. Shah's statement during his visit to West Bengal that the CAA will be implemented once the COVID-19 pandemic ends.

The All Assam Students' Union and the Raijor Dal, a political party headed by Akhil Gogoi, MLA, have also opposed Mr. Shah's comment on the CAA.

Another students' body, the Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chhatra Parishad, advised the Home Minister to hold a referendum on the CAA before making assertions regarding its implementation.

Rana dares Uddhav for a poll duel

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Firing a fresh salvo against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and the Shiv Sena, Independent MP from Amravati, Navneet Rana, who was discharged from Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital on Sunday, accused Mr. Thackeray of misusing his power while challenging him to contest any election against her.

She alleged that she was "harassed" in the lock-up merely for using Lord Ram's name and wanting to recite the *Hanuman Chalisa*, and warned that she would complain to the BJP-led Union government about the alleged "mistreatment". "I challenge the Chief Minister that you can choose your constituency, and I will contest against him on the basis of my work and my integrity and win... They [the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi government] thought they would silence me by sending me to jail. What mistake have I done in taking Lord Ram's name? Even if this government consigns me for 14 years to prison, they cannot silence my voice," she said.

BJP ambiguous on tie-up with Raj Thackeray for BMC polls

Loudspeaker row has had a mixed response, say leaders

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh, made news last week after he demanded an apology from Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray for making pejorative comments against north Indians settled in Maharashtra, stating clearly that he would be allowed to visit the Ram temple site in Ayodhya only if he apologised.

The comment did not elicit any remark in BJP circles, a tacit approval, in fact, and a clear sign that while the BJP found Mr. Raj Thackeray useful in terms of exposing the ideological fault lines between the Shiv Sena and its allies, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress, in the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government by raising the *Hanuman Chalisa* controversy, the party was ambiguous with regard to an electoral partnership with the MNS for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election.

According to senior BJP leaders in Delhi, the controversy triggered by Mr. Raj Thackeray and his party demanding removal of loudspeakers from mosques, failing which his party workers would recite the *Hanuman Chalisa* at similar decibels, has had a mixed response.

"The actions of Mr. Raj Thackeray are interesting in that they help exploit the ideological fault lines within the MVA government constituents, but the campaign itself has fizzled out and therefore his political heft remains a question mark," said a source.

The Shiv Sena, which was the BJP's only ally based on a Hindutva ideology and had claimed openly that its cadre had been part of the demolition of the Babri Masjid, is now with the NCP and the Congress, a fact that has curbed much of its Hindutva rhetoric.

Mr. Raj Thackeray's gambit was to expose this fault line and give an outlet to traditional Sena supporters not comfortable with the new avatar of the party. The campaign over removal of loudspeakers, however, did not take off as expected with many of the MNS cadre, working men and women, keeping away as the police promised strict action. "Most of the cadre come from working class backgrounds, and currently, even for gig economy jobs, police verification, etc, is important; if cases, even for small matters are filed, then it comes in the way of employment," said a source.

The BJP's ambiguity towards Mr. Raj Thackeray is also evident through a series of tweets by Nitesh Rane, son of Union Minister Narayan Rane, who termed "loudspeakers" a peripheral issue to Hindutva, while asking for focus on Raza Academy and other such institutions. Again, Mr. Rane was not pulled up and his comment did not elicit any reaction in the party.

Polls for the BMC, due later this year, have had a big effect on politics in the State – the Corporation, usually controlled by the Shiv Sena, even when it was aligned with the BJP in the past, is a prize everyone is eyeing, if not the whole of it then to get a piece of the pie.

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Technical Director (Civil & Electrical)
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With Pakistani MBBS degree made invalid, Kashmiri students at dead-end

Many of those pursuing course in neighbouring country are women; students say there is no recorded instance of a medical student turning to militancy

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

For Kashmiri students who aspired to study in medical colleges in Pakistan, it had been a daunting journey – harassment at the border crossing, nagging questions on their ideology, and summons from the J&K police on their return. All that they would endure to become a doctor. Then in April, the National Medical Commission declared that the MBBS degree from the neighbouring country is invalid in India.

A notification issued by the National Medical Commission on April 28 said students from any medical college of Pakistan shall not be eligible for appearing in Foreign Medical Graduates Examination or seeking employment, "except those who had joined Pakistan degree colleges/institutions before December 2018 or later after obtaining security clearance from MHA till date".

Farid Ahmad (name changed) is from uptown Srinagar. His grandfather and great-grandfather were renowned doctors. Unable to secure an MBBS admission and afford the fees in private colleges in India, Mr. Ahmad opted for a medical college in Pakistan in 2018.

He sat for a pre-qualifying test in Islamabad. "I could not secure a full scholarship, but managed a medical seat in the paid quota at the Quaid-e-Azam Medical College, Bahawalpur. It cost me just ₹40,000 a year, including hostel fees," Mr. Ahmad said.

Pakistani students who saw students like Mr. Ahmad as taking away their seats, would question his ideology. "I was asked if I believed in staying with India or Pakistan or in *azadi* (freedom). Trust me, all I was interested in was my MBBS degree and in getting a job back home," Mr. Ahmad said.

Many students intend to return to Kashmir and take up work. • REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

On his first trip home from Pakistan, he was summoned by the J&K Police and asked to disclose his college and course details. "It's not easy for students to face frequent interrogations in police stations. There was a sudden spike in this in early 2019. They [the police] indirectly suggested we quit the course," Mr. Ahmad said.

When J&K's special status was withdrawn on August 5, 2019, Mr. Ahmad was in Pakistan, cut off from his family for almost three months in a communication blackout. When he made it home, he was not able to return to Pakistan as air and ground traffic had been suspended. As scores of other students did, Mr. Ahmad decided to quit the Pakistani medical college in 2020 and take a transfer to a medical college in Europe. Many others opted for Central Asian countries.

Previously, it cost Mr. Ahmad ₹5,000 to reach his college in Bahawalpur, a four-hour bus ride from the Wagah border in Punjab. "It was not easy studying in Pakistan. I remember how we would be stopped at the Wagah border and harassed as students," he added. He now has to take a four-hour flight and then a bus ride.

Confidence building

According to an unofficial estimate, nearly 100 students used to travel every year to Pakistan, mainly for the MBBS course. Around 2002, during the Pervez Musharraf regime in that country, Pakistan's intake of Kashmiri students went up, and 100 scholarships were announced in different courses, including engineering, veterinary sciences, and pharmacology. The initiative was considered a major confidence-building measure between the two countries then. It was also in tune with a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation agreement on student exchange.

Three medical colleges in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) – Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College, Muzaffarabad; Mohtarma

SPECIAL

Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Medical College, Mirpur; and Poonch Medical College, Rawalakot – offered a 6% reservation for J&K students. However, a degree from those colleges was declared invalid in 2017 since India does not recognise PoK as part of Pakistan.

Security agencies say at least 17 youth, who had gone on student travel documents, joined militancy in Pakistan.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the State Investigation Agency (SIA) are probing the role of Kashmiri students in militancy and money laundering. According to the police, separatists were raising money through the "sale of MBBS seats" and pumping the funds into militancy in Kashmir.

According to the students studying in Pakistan, there is not a single recorded instance yet of a medical student turning to militancy. They say those who picked up weapons on a student visa never joined a professional college in Pakistan.

Mr. Ahmad now pays ₹6 lakh a year as fee plus ₹50,000 as monthly rent. "I went into depression when I was stuck in Kashmir in my third year in MBBS and not able to travel to Pakistan for my examination," he said.

Around 70-80% of the Kashmiri students at present studying in Pakistan are women. For example, Jinnah Medical and Dental College, Karachi, has 40 Kashmiri students, of whom 25 are women. Similarly, at Fatima Jinnah Medical University (FJMU), Lahore, 40 of 60 Kashmiri students are women.

Speaking to *The Hindu* from the FJMU, a student, on condition of anonymity, said she had opted for Pakistan only because her father could not afford to pay the high fees in India.

"I have three more sisters so I wasn't sure if I could pay ₹40-60 lakh for my Bachelor's degree, so I applied for Pakistan, Turkey and Bangladesh. I got selected in all, but as Pakistan's medical colleges are better than those of Bangladesh or Turkey, I came here," she said.

"We have to look for higher studies and jobs outside India now, though my first choice would always be my own country. I hope the government revokes the decision," she added.

Aorta clamp to save lives during child birth

Doctor develops it to control bleeding

C. MAYA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An aorta clamp developed by an obstetrician in the State to control torrential bleeding during the surgical management of placenta accreta spectrum (PAS), a serious obstetric complication and a significant cause of maternal mortality, has been found to be useful in containing blood loss and saving maternal lives, without any incidence of vascular injury.

The "Paily aorta clamp", developed by V.P. Paily, senior obstetric consultant and master trainer for the Kerala Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, is currently being used in multiple centres with good results. A retrospective study of 33 women with varying grades of PAS, who underwent caesarean hysterectomies as elective or emergency procedures utilising the Paily aorta clamp, appears in the March 2022 issue of the *International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics*.

With the rise in caesarean sections (C-section), PAS is emerging as a major concern and is a significant cause of maternal mortality and morbidity.

A previous C-section scar is the most typical risk factor for PAS as the placenta deeply adheres to the scar tissue and into the uterine wall, sometimes extending to nearby organs, such as the bladder.

PAS management is thus a nightmare for obstetricians worldwide because, apart from the risk of catastrophic amounts of blood loss, there is also the high probability of urological injuries and massive transfusion requirements encountered during non-conservative surgery.

In high-resource settings, PAS disorders are managed by multidisciplinary teams of expert gynaecological and vascular surgeons, supported by anaesthesiologists, intensivists, radiologists and urologists.

In major tertiary centres, vascular surgeons attempt to reduce bleeding using intravascular balloon occlusion at the lower end of the abdominal aorta or the common iliac arteries.

But the application of the Paily aorta clamp helps in low resource settings, where the access to unlimited amounts of blood to transfuse and the services of a vascular surgeon might not be available, says Dr. Paily.

It is an easy aid that the obstetricians themselves can use to control bleeding and can be applied rapidly.

"We started promoting this method in 2011-12 and now, all Government Medical Colleges in the State and many private hospitals too are utilising the same to prevent torrential bleeding in PAS," he says.

Justice Pardiwala is in line to be CJI

He will be the sixth Supreme Court judge from the Parsi community

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala, to be sworn in as Supreme Court judge along with Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia on Monday, will be the sixth apex court judge from the Parsi community.

In line to be the third Chief Justice of India from the community, Justice Pardiwala would be top judge for a little over two years and lead the court into the next decade. Justice Pardiwala, in 2015, while hearing a plea by Patidar leader Hardik Patel, had initially observed that "reservation and corruption are two things that have not allowed the country to progress in the right direction", but later expunged the remark when 58 members of the Rajya Sabha petitioned

Justice Jamshed Burjor

Chairperson Hamid Ansari for his impeachment. He was critical of the steps taken by the Gujarat government during the COVID-19 crisis.

The first member of the Parsi community to serve on the Supreme Court was Justice Dinshah Pirosha Madon in the early 1980s. The two Chief Justices of India, Justices Sam Piroj Bharucha and Justice Sarosh Homi Kapadia, were appointed top judges almost 10 years apart. Justice Bharucha was appointed CJI in 2001 and Justice Kapadia in 2010.

Then there were the two "Narimans". Justice Sam Nariman Variava, once a part-time professor of law at Sydenham College in Bombay, was Supreme Court judge between 2000 and 2005.

A decade later, the court witnessed in Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman a brilliant spell and a flurry of judgments in fields of law as varied as death penalty review, free speech and insolvency laws.

Justice Bharucha was the 30th Chief Justice of India. Media reports of the time of his appointment as CJI showed Justice Bharucha described in the legal circles as a stern, fair judge who kept his distance from the political establishment. When the SC pulled up author Arundhati Roy for her writing on the Narmada dam issue, Justice Bharucha gave a dissenting opinion, saying the "court's shoulders are broad enough to shrug off their comments and focus should not shift from the rehabilitation of the oustees". His judgment led to the dismissal of Jayalalithaa as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.

Justice Variava was a lawyer who practised in the Bombay High Court and appeared in the civil court. He was elevated to the Supreme Court as judge in March 2000.

Rajasthan police reach Noida to arrest journalist

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A team of Rajasthan police was on Sunday searching for TV journalist Aman Chopra in Uttar Pradesh's Noida to arrest him in compliance with a warrant issued by a court in Dungarpur. Mr. Chopra is wanted in a case of sedition and hurting religious sentiments of a community.

Mr. Chopra, an editor with news channel Network 18, had anchored a TV show insinuating that the recent demolition of a temple in Alwar was carried out by the Rajasthan government as an "act of revenge" against the demolition drive at Jahangirpuri, where the gate of a mosque was razed. Three FIRs were registered against Mr. Chopra in Dungarpur, Alwar and Bundi. The Rajasthan HC has stayed the journalist's arrest in two FIRs of Alwar and Bundi, but he faces the arrest warrant issued by the Dungarpur court.

MHA gives security clearance to Jet Airways

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has granted security clearance to Jet Airways that is planning to relaunch commercial flight operations in the next few months, according to an official document. The Jalan-Kalrock Consortium is currently the promoters of Jet Airways. Earlier, the airline had operated its last flight on April 17, 2019. Last Thursday, the airline conducted its test flight to and from the Hyderabad airport.

A letter sent by the Civil Aviation Ministry on May 6 informed it about the grant of the security clearance. The letter said, it is "directed to refer to your application... to convey security clearance for change in shareholding pattern of the company/firm, for scheduled operator permit, on the basis of security clearance received from the Ministry of Home Affairs".

The excavation site at Rakhigarhi where 60 skeletons were found by the Archaeological Survey of India. • PTI

Rakhigarhi skeletons' DNA samples sent for analysis

Many artefacts found at Harappa site

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAKHIGARHI

DNA samples collected from two human skeletons unearthed at a necropolis of a Harappan-era city site in Haryana have been sent for scientific examination, the outcome of which might tell about the ancestry and food habits of people who lived in the Rakhigarhi region thousands of years ago.

The skeletons of two women were found a couple of months ago at mound number 7 (named RGR 7 by the Archaeological Survey of India or ASI), believed to be nearly 5,000 years old. Pots and other artefacts were also found buried next to them in a pit, part of the funerary rituals back in the Harappan Civilisation era, ASI officials said.

"Seven mounds scattered around two villages (Rakhi Khas and Rakhi Shahpur) in Hisar district are part of the Rakhigarhi archaeological site. RGR 7 is a cemetery site of the Harappan period when this was a well-organised city. The two skeletons were unearthed about two months ago by our team. And DNA samples were collected by experts about two weeks ago," Joint Director-General, ASI, S.K. Manjul said.

At present RGR 1, RGR 3 and RGR 7 have been taken up for investigation.

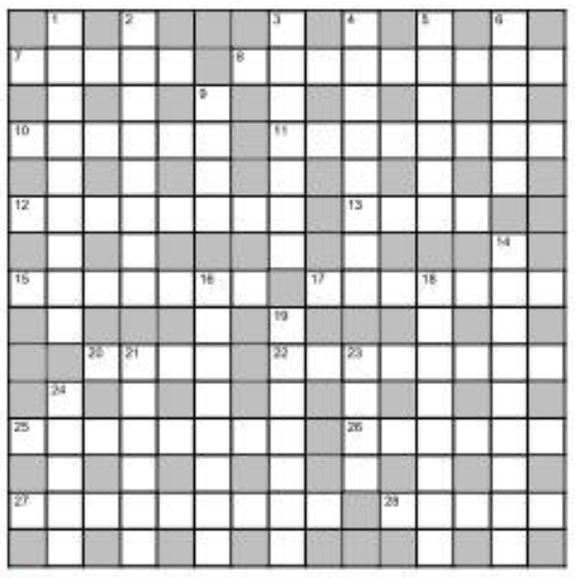
Dr. Manjul, who is leading the excavation team at the Rakhigarhi site since it commenced on February 24, 2022, said the DNA analysis will help answer a lot of questions, anthropological or otherwise. The samples will be first examined by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleosciences, Lucknow for preliminary investigation and scientific comparison, before being sent further for forensic analysis from an anthropological perspective, he said.

THE CROSSWORD + 13551

(set by WrdPlougher)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

7 Second immature artist of Dorian, say? (5)
8 Basically, the forecaster finally puts on spectacles to examine this document (9)
10 In this case, a German woman's in front (6)
11 A game soldier plays, essentially in defence (8)
12 Defiling nun inside, leaving woman finally battered, disfigured (8)
13 Skeletons excavated in old city state no longer in one piece (4)
15 If you had this, Eminem wondered, you might capture it in America? (3,4)
17 The orthodox follow these duties (7)
20 Sketch model, capturing likeness, scoring oddly easy lines (4)
22 Discharged, initially careful about sickness, abandoning doctor for prayer (4,4)
25 Most inexperienced solver to begin grid at home (8)
26 Heaving, lug one, and relax (6)
27 Celebrating creamy layer, advancing 16.67% reservations, 50% jobs (9)
28 Mug made of primarily shiny metal containing last drop of wine (5)

DOWN

1 Engraving a number around a satellite at the launch – one might be moved by it (3,6)
2 Ship, stocking canned feta, that's supplying gun parts? (8)
3 For hard-working student, raised yearly funding mainly to get admission (7)
4 Ululate "Oh no!," spitting out brewed tea, lost in U.S tourist spot (8)
5 Shoots movies with stars, say, briefly working for IFFI in the latter half (6)
6 Opening partner initially going in for break (5)
9 Play by Sophocles is gone after this critic... (4)
14 ... starts to boo rudely – obviously greatly liking it inside, I think – briefly making trouble (9)
16 Unexpected cache uncovered for social welfare (8)
18 Oddly thin doctor riding tuk-tuk out of bounds, somewhere very far away? (8)
19 Fish appendage's injured (7)
21 Rather good book Indo-Fijian has penned (4,2)
23 Lied about being lazy (4)
24 Contest rule book's contents, taking both sides of debate (5)

SUDOKU

3	6		2					
						5	7	8
							2	
			3	9		4		
	3		6		7		9	
		1		5	4			
	1							
6	9	5						
					1		8	3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13550

D	U	N	G	E	O	N	S	H
I	E	A	O	E	Y	A	P	
P	L	E	A	S	E	B	E	X
L	D	E	E	D	L	R	N	
G	I	L	S	L	I	C	K	S
M	E	O	N	K	L			
A	R	D	R	I	N	O	T	R
			N	E	E	R		
F	L	A	U	T	I	S	T	S
O	G	H	T	E	R			
R	E	A	V	E	A	L	T	I
E	I	C	G	U	H	R	W	
M	A	N	I	L	L	A	B	O
A	S	U	P	E	T	N	I	
N	O	T	A	B	L	E	S	P

E	R	P	A	S				
X	E	M	P	L	A			
C	I	N	G					
E	D	A	M	E				
S	H	R	U	B				
I	P	L	A	N	O			
O	L	E	A	N				
O	N	D	E	E				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	4	1	5	6	8	3	9
5	3	6	2	8	9	1	4	7
9	1	8	3	4	7	5	2	6
4	6	1	5	9	2	3	7	8
8	5	2	7	1	3	6	9	4
3	7	9	4	6	8	2	5	1
6	8	3	9	2	4	7	1	5
2	9	5	6	7	1	4	8	3
1	4	7	8	3	5	9	6	2

FAITH

Divya Prabandham details

Vedanta Desika's contribution to Visishtadvaita is immeasurable. His works set forth the tenets of Visishtadvaita clearly. His Tamil works have a special place, and among these, Prabandha Saaram, which deals with the pasurams of the Azhvars is particularly important, said Koothapakkam Chakravarthi Ranganathachariar, in a discourse.

Divya Prabandham, as the collection of the pasurams of the Azhvars is called, gives us the essence of the Vedas. So the Divya Prabandham puts within our reach philosophical concepts which we would not have otherwise understood. Prabandha Saaram is a celebration of the Azhvars, whose works made such comprehension by us possible. Vedanta Desika always followed in the footsteps of great sages and Acharyas. And in the Prabandha Saaram, he gives details about the Azhvars – the stars under which they were born and the number of verses in the works of each. In giving such details, Desika was doing what Sage Saunaka had done for the Rg Veda. Saunaka in his Rg Veda anukramaanika gave the total number of mantras, the number of chapters and so on. In short, like the contents given at the beginning of a work, Saunaka gave the contents of the Rg Veda. Desika does for the Divya Prabandham what Saunaka did for the Rg Veda. In verses 15 and 16 of Prabandha Saaram, Desika tells us how many pasurams each Azhvar has to his credit.

Pasurams of first three Azhvars add up to 300 (100 each); Thirumazhisai Azhvar 216; Nammazhvar 1,296; Madhurakavi 11; Kulasekara Azhvar 105; Periyazhvar 473; Andal 173; Thondaradippodi Azhvar 55; Thirupaan Azhvar 10; Thirumangai Azhvar 1,253; Thiruvarangathamudanar's verses in praise of Ramanujacharya - 108. All of these add up to 4000, the collection known as Nalayira Divya Prabandham.

Ukraine battles to hold eastern bastions

U.S. First Lady Jill Biden and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau make unannounced visits to the country

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEVERODONETSK

Ukrainian forces braced on Sunday to defend their final bastion in the devastated port city of Mariupol, desperate to deny Russia a symbolic win on the eve of Moscow's Victory Day celebrations.

In a show of support, U.S. First Lady Jill Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made unannounced visits to Ukraine.

But fierce fighting continued on the ground. Shelling and missile strikes have intensified in the build up to the Second World War anniversary.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky marked a day commemorating the end of the 1939-1945 war by comparing Ukraine's battle for survival to the region's war of resistance against its former Nazi occupiers.

"Decades after World War II, darkness has returned to Ukraine, and it has become black and white again," Mr. Zelensky said. "Evil has returned, in a different uniform, under different slogans, but for the same purpose," he warned.

Taking stock: Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during a visit to the city of Irpin on Sunday. • AFP

At a news conference with the Ukrainian leader, Mr. Trudeau said, "It is clear that Vladimir Putin is responsible for heinous war crimes." Mr. Trudeau said that he "witnessed firsthand the brutality of Russia's illegal war".

Russia, meanwhile, was gearing up for a Victory Day parade designed to associate the invasion with the Soviet Union's defeat of Germany.

"Today, our soldiers, as their ancestors, are fighting side by side to liberate their native land from the Nazi filth with the confidence that, as in 1945, victory will be ours," Mr. Putin said.

Civilians have been evacuated from Mariupol's Azovstal plant, leaving a small force of defenders. "Surrender is not an option because Russia is not interested in our lives," said an intelligence officer posted there.

EU wrangles over details of Russia oil embargo

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

European diplomats were locked in difficult negotiations on the terms of the EU's sixth round of sanctions against Russia on Sunday, with several members seeking guarantees for their oil supplies.

The package suggested last week by the European Commission would have seen most EU members halting oil imports from Russia by the end of the year, to punish Moscow for invading Ukraine.

But several member states, most vocally Hungary, demanded exemptions from the ban and support to help them escape their long-standing dependence on a single pipeline for Russian crude.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban has declared that the package as presented crossed a "red line" for Hungary, but diplomats in Brussels insist the technical negotiations are not blocked.

Ambassadors were to meet again on Sunday, but hopes that the package will be ready before Monday – on Russia's Victory Day celebrations – were fading.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has said that if there is no agreement over the weekend he will call a meeting of Foreign Ministers next week.

"There is no political blockage, but the need to guarantee alternative sources of supply to landlocked countries dependent on Russian oil by pipeline. And it is not easy," a European diplomat said.

Beijing loyalist John Lee elected as Hong Kong's leader

He will replace current leader Carrie Lam on July 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HONG KONG

John Lee, a hard-line security chief who oversaw a crackdown on Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement, was elected as the city's next leader on Sunday in a vote cast by a largely pro-Beijing committee.

Mr. Lee was the only candidate and won with over 99% of the vote, in which nearly all 1,500 committee members were carefully vetted by the Central government in Beijing.

He will replace current leader Carrie Lam on July 1. Her five-term was marked by huge pro-democracy protests calling for her resignation, a security crackdown that has quashed virtually all dissent, the recent COVID-19 wave – events that have undermined Hong Kong's reputation as an international business hub with Western-style freedoms.

John Lee

"I look forward to all of us starting a new chapter together, building a Hong Kong that is caring, open and vibrant, and a Hong Kong that is full of opportunities and harmony," Mr. Lee said in his victory speech.

The election followed major changes to Hong Kong's electoral laws last year to ensure that only "patriots" loyal to Beijing can hold office. The legislature was also reorganised to all but eliminate opposition voices.

The committee members voted in a secret ballot, and Mr. Lee's 1,416 votes were the highest support ever for the city's top position.

Without opposition, Mr. Lee would likely have easier time governing Hong Kong compared to Ms. Lam, said Ivan Choy, a senior lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Department of Government and Public Administration. "A major reason for easier governance is that the electoral system has changed. In the legislature and the election committee, there is almost no political opposition and the political spectrum is concentrated towards the pro-establishment camp," he said.

"With no democrats, it will be easier for the chief executive to govern as there are fewer checks and balances," he added.

The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that Mr. Lee's election "violates democratic principles and political pluralism in Hong Kong."

Crowds jeer at Mahinda on rare outing since nationwide protests

'We will worship you if you stand down as PM and leave'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Boos and heckles greeted Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Sunday on his first public outing since nationwide protests erupted demanding his ruling family resign over the worsening economic crisis.

Months of blackouts and acute shortages of food, fuel and medicines have caused widespread suffering across the South Asian island in its worst economic downturn since independence in 1948.

On Sunday, the premier visited one of the holiest Buddhist temples – housing a reputedly 2,300-year-old tree – in Anuradhapura.

But dozens of people carried hand-written placards and chanted slogans demanding that "thieves" be banned from the sacred city, 200 km north of Colombo.

"We will worship you if you stand down (as Prime Minister) and leave," one man shouted.

Officials said the premier returned to the capital by helicopter.

Several major roads in the country are blocked by people protesting the lack of cooking gas, petrol and diesel.

In short supply: Consumers waiting to buy cooking gas block an intersectional road in Colombo. • AFP

In the capital, a truck transporting cooking gas was looted on Sunday by crowds who had been waiting in line overnight for supplies.

Gas cylinders looted

Outnumbered police watched helplessly as men climbed onto the truck and got away with 84 cylinders of gas, officials said.

The government imposed a state of Emergency granting the military sweeping powers to arrest and detain people on Friday, after trade unions brought the country to a virtual standstill in a bid to pressure President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to step down.

The Defence Ministry said in a statement on Sunday that anti-government demonstrators were behaving in a "provocative and threatening manner" and disrupting essential services.

Unions said they would stage daily protests from Monday to pressure the government to revoke the Emergency.

2 Palestinians who 'axed' 3 to death held

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ELAD

Israeli forces on Sunday arrested two Palestinians suspected of axing to death three Israelis, after a more than two-day manhunt, the latest in a spate of deadly attacks.

The security services said the suspects were spotted hiding in a bush near a quarry, just outside the central town of Elad, where the axe attack took place on Thursday.

"We said we would get the terrorists, and so we did," Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said ahead of his weekly Cabinet meeting on Sunday.

The deadly attack in Elad, populated by mainly ultra-Orthodox Jews, was the sixth in which Israelis have been targeted since March 22.

Witnesses said two assailants leapt from a car swinging axes at passers-by, leaving three dead and four wounded, before fleeing in the same vehicle.

Meanwhile, an Israeli police officer was stabbed on Sunday outside Jerusalem's Old City, with the attacker shot and "neutralised", police and medics said. The officer was taken to hospital in moderate condition.

Philippines on alert ahead of polls

Dictator's son Marcos Jr., human rights lawyer Leni Robredo vie for Presidency

REUTERS
MANILA

The Philippine police and military said on Sunday they were on high alert as last-minute preparations continued for the country's general election, even as the overall situation remained "relatively peaceful".

Filipinos vote on Monday to choose President Rodrigo Duterte's successor, a Vice-President, 12 Senators, hundreds of Congressmen and thousands of Governors, Mayors and provincial and city councillors.

The presidential race is a rematch between Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the country's late dictator, and Leni Robredo, the human rights lawyer who narrowly beat him in the 2016 vice-presidential contest.

Three months of divisive campaigning ended on Saturday, with Mr. Marcos and Ms. Robredo making final bids to sway undecided voters with patriotic, upbeat messages.

Mr. Duterte did not endorse a presidential candidate, but his party backs frontrunners Mr. Marcos and his running mate, Mr. Duterte's daughter Sara Duterte-Carpio.

"We are ready for any contingencies," Armed Forces chief Lieutenant General Andres Centino told a media briefing.

"We are committed... to ensure that we have a secure, accurate, free and fair elections tomorrow."

Political violence, cheating allegations and vote-buying marred previous elections in the Philippines. But the police said they have recorded far fewer poll-related offences than in the 2016 general election and 2019 mid-term polls.

"Hopefully we can maintain this tranquillity up to the last day of our electoral process," Danao said.

Philippine National Police spokesperson Jean Fajardo told another briefing the pre-election situation was "relatively peaceful", with 16 election-related offences, including shootings in Nueva Ecija and Ilocos Sur provinces.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail ID: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following propertyties mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.13,83,644/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Four Only)** as on **04-05-2022** together with further interest to be charged from **05-05-2022** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. M.B.C Mazhar Pasha Traders, at Stall No.110, PMC Yard, Ramanagara, Karnataka -562159. No.2) Mr. Shri. Syed Mazhber Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mahaboob Miyan, at 1023, Jamia Masjid Cross, Ramanagara - 562160. No.3) Mr. Syed Zoha Muskan, S/o. Mr. Syed Mazher Pasha, at No.1023, Jamia Masjid Cross, Upper Deira, Jamia Masjid, Channapatna - 562159.**

Note:- That our **198 - Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR: 501812080077581) dated **15-01-2021** requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for which No.2 of you stood as Co-Obligant for the facility for a Total Amount of **Rs. 5,00,000/-** at a ROI of **15.50%**. The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **14-07-2021** and the outstanding balance as on **04-05-2022** is **Rs.61,279/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **05-05-2022** till the date of realization.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A: (Property Owned by Mr. Syed Zoha Muskan)

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Property No.152900102401520138, Kaneshumari No.14/16/3/14, consisting of East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet of Land situated Appagere Village, Mangalavara Pete Dakale, Kasaba Hobli, Rampura Gram Panchayat, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District. Bounded on:- East by - Site No.13, West by - Site No.15, North by - Road, South by - Road.

Reserve Price: Rs.16,00,000/-
(Rupees Sixteen Lakh Only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
03-06-2022	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka - 571511.** (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.** (5) The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 06-05-2022 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001267, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH - 70)
O.S. No. 7104/ 2016

Between
M/s Capital First Limited
C1, RPS Pride, 1st Floor, 20th Main Road, KHB 5th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 095 ...Plaintiff
And
M/s Devki Designs & Another ...Defendants

APPLICATION UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF C.P.C

Summons to Defendant No.1 & 2

D1. M/s Devki Designs,
No.48, Hill View Buildings, Nayandahalli, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560 039

D2. Mr. Vidyur Vasant Rao Kulkarni,
Akme Harmony Tower, No.2A, Flat No.801, Outer Ring Road, Ambalipura, Varthur, Bangalore - 560 037

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.10,72,022/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Two Thousand and Twenty Two Only)** together with interest thereon at the rate **19.50%** p.a., with costs etc. You may take notice that you are hereby directed to appear before this court, in person, or through pleader on **01/06/2022** at 11.00 a.m., to answer as to why relief prayer for in the suit should not be granted. If you fail to appear on the above said date, the suit will be proceeded with and decided ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **25/04/2022.**

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S A Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047.

SEAL

BY ORDER OF COURT
SD/-
CITY CIVIL COURT, BENGALURU

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-procurement mode only)

No: SE(E)/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-130/22-23/1051-52 Dt: 07.05.2022

(1) KPTCL invites Bid against Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/EPR-17 Dt: 30.04.2022 for **"Work of replacement of old 4 pole structure by 1 Number of 66kV NBT (KPTCL design) for the existing 66kV HAL-ADUGODI line 1&2 lines infront of Chi. Udayashankar children park, ward No.88, Jeevan Bheema Nagar Main Road, TLM Hoody on Total Turnkey Basis".**

No: SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/F-EPR22(20-21)/22-23/1065-66 Dt: 07.05.2022

(2) KPTCL invites Bid against Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/20-21/EPR-22/Call-10 Dt: 18.03.2021 for **"Work of replacement of age old pneumatic type 220kV SF6 Breakers by spring mechanism type at the 220/66/11kV Somanahalli Receiving Station, in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South circle on Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials/equipment's (excluding 220kV Breakers and Conductors) and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipment's, testing and commissioning".

The bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **09.05.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele),
Tr(Maint.), BMAZ, South Circle,
KPTCL, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

Assad meets Iran leaders in rare visit to Tehran

He hails ally for help in fighting terror

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Syrian President Bashar Assad met with Iranian leaders in Tehran on Sunday, Iranian and Syrian media reported, marking his second trip to major wartime ally Iran since Syria's civil war erupted in 2011.

Nour News, a website close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, reported that Assad met Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi. It said the leaders praised the strong ties between their nations and vowed to boost relations further.

"Everybody now looks at Syria as a power," Mr. Khamenei told Mr. Assad in the meeting, according to Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency, believed to be close to the country's powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. "The respect and credibility of Syria is now much more than before."

Mr. Assad, for his part, said that strong relations between Iran and Syria served as a bulwark against American and Israeli influence in the West Asia.

Bashar Assad, left, with Ebrahim Raisi. • REUTERS

"America today is weaker than ever," Syrian state news agency, SANA, quoted Mr. Assad as saying. "We should continue this track," he added, praising Iran's help in Syria's "fight against terrorism."

In an apparent reference to a recent string of deadly attacks in Israel by Palestinian assailants, Mr. Assad also said that the Palestinian cause has again captured the world's attention.

Mr. Assad has rarely travelled abroad since his government's crackdown on Syria's civil unrest in 2011 led to a devastating civil war and made him a global pariah.

Northern Ireland parties urged to work together

This comes after Sinn Fein's historic win

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

The U.K., U.S. and Irish governments have urged rival parties in Northern Ireland to come together to resurrect its power-sharing government after Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein scored a historic victory to become the biggest party in Northern Ireland's Assembly.

Sinn Fein, which seeks union with Ireland, won 27 seats in the 90-seat legislature, beating the Democratic Unionist Party, which secured 25 seats. It's the first time in Northern Ireland's history that an Irish nationalist party has topped the voting.

But it's not clear whether Sinn Fein will lead a new government because of Northern Ireland's delicate power-sharing politics and ongoing tussles over the legacy of Britain's exit from the European Union.

While Sinn Fein's vice-president Michelle O'Neill now has the right to the post of First Minister, a functioning Northern Ireland Executive – or devolved government – cannot be formed unless the largest unionist party agrees to join in the role of Deputy First Minister.

In February the DUP's Paul Givan quit as First Minister in protest against post-Brexit border arrangements, collapsing the Executive. His party has said it will not return to government unless their demands over the customs arrangements are met.

Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin said late on Saturday that "it is now incumbent on all political parties and elected representatives to deliver on their mandate."

"Power-sharing and principles of partnership, equality and mutual respect are at the heart of the Good Friday Agreement, through which peace has been secured and progress achieved for almost 25 years," he added. "A new power-sharing Executive is vital for progress and prosperity for all in Northern Ireland."

In London, Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis said he will meet with party leaders Monday to discuss how to re-establish a functioning government.

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ASK US

N. SREEKANTH

Q. I am a senior citizen. My father had invested in shares in the joint names of my father and eldest brother. They were bought more than 25 years ago. Upon my father's death, the shares have been equally distributed between me and brothers. Will a sale attract capital gains tax?

KIRON KARNAD

A. Yes. Capital Gains is attracted on the sale of shares that you have inherited from your father and the same will be taxed at 20% as STT is not applicable in case of transmission of shares.

Q. I had traded in intraday stocks and options in the last financial year and made some losses. I understand that it is necessary to show all your intraday and derivative trades in the I-T filing (as business income) and this also helps in carrying forward the losses. I have been reading about the subject for some time now. But the more articles I read, the more I am getting confused, especially regarding whether the books have to be audited in the case of intraday and derivatives trading in certain scenarios. I didn't have any income in the last financial year other than interest income from bank deposits and my total taxable income is less than ₹2.5 lakh. Will I have to audit my books? Also, which ITR should I file?

VIVEK

A. Tax audit will apply when your trading turnover exceeds ₹10 crore if your cash payments and receipts are lower than 5% of your gross receipts and gross payments from AY 22-23. For tax audit cases, ITR-3 is applicable to be filed. No other ITR is applicable for an individual who has trading income and is falling under the criteria of tax audit applicability. Turnover in the case of intraday trading is absolute turnover which is the sum total of total profits plus total losses made on daily transactions. For futures and options, the total of favourable and unfavourable differences shall be taken as turnover. Premium received on sale of options is also to be included in turnover and in respect of any reverse trades entered, the difference thereon should also form part of the turnover and further intraday trading is considered to be speculative business.

Q. I am 82 years old, retired and without a pension. My daughter recently received the maturity value of her policy. Of the proceeds, she wants to give me ₹4 lakh for my medical expenses. Will either of us be liable to pay tax? If I invest the funds in a fixed deposit and earn interest, what is the tax liability?

SUBRAMANIAN SESHAIYER

A. Transfer of money from daughter to father as a gift is not taxable for both the donor and the donee. The interest accruing from the FD made by you out of the gift proceeds is taxable in your hands. As you are a senior citizen, interest from deposits in banks/post offices are deductible up to ₹50,000 under Section 80TTB of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Q. My wife has taken a life insurance policy from a private sector company, for which she has been remitting the premium. As she has not been claiming the premium amount for income tax relief u/s 80C, can I avail of that benefit? If the answer is in the negative, please suggest any alternative that exists.

KAMATH

A. No, you cannot avail yourself of the benefit of deduction under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as the payment is not being made by you, even though she does not claim the same in her I-T assessment. You will have to make the premium payment to effect or keep in force the insurance on the life of your spouse. In other words, you have to pay the insurance premium and claim the benefit.

Q. While calculating deduction under Sec 80g, should standard deduction be reduced by the pensioner for arriving at gross total income?

T.K. KANNAN

A. For the purpose of arriving at the gross total income for capping the deductions under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, portions thereof on which income tax is not payable under any provisions of the Act and by any amount in respect of which the assessee is entitled to a deduction under any other provision of the Act is to be reduced for computing the 10% cap of the deduction quantum under this section. As standard deduction is deductible under the provisions under the head "Income from Salaries", the same is to be reduced while arriving at the gross total income for the purposes of this section.

Q. I had purchased a money-back life insurance policy in 1995. On maturity, the company gave a certain final amount. Is this taxable?

NOONHIL UNNIKRISHNAN

A. As per Section 10(10D) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, any sum received under a life insurance policy, including bonus is exempt. You are to note that this exemption is available only if the premium paid is lesser than 10% of the sum assured if the policy is taken on or after April 1, 2012 and in case of policies dated between April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2012, the policy paid amount is to be lesser than 20% of the sum assured.

Insurance companies are required to deduct tax (TDS) only if the amount so paid is not covered under Section 10 (10D) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and such amount exceeds ₹1,00,000

(The author is Partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Ponder before the swipe

Credit cards carry multiple benefits. However, they can also cause major financial distress when used imprudently

SACHIN VASUDEVA

A credit card comes with multiple benefits in the form of higher purchasing power and interest-free periods, along with rewards on usage.

However, it can also cause major financial distress, largely due to financial indiscipline or plain lack of awareness.

Here are the seven most common mistakes you can make while using your credit card.

Missing on-time payments

While credit cards provide you with higher spending power, they also come with a responsibility to repay the outstanding amounts on time. Lack of discipline in timely repayment of your outstanding card bill can be perhaps the biggest folly while using a card.

Not only would you be levied with hefty late payment fees and finance charges, but regularly missing your payment can severely impact your credit score. Non-payment and even late payment of your credit card bill is reflected in your credit report, which can also adversely impact your chances of getting a loan or a credit card in future.

Also, missing your credit card bill payment will eventually lead your to losing the interest-free period, as all new transactions will also start attracting finance charges from the first day, till the time you clear your outstanding dues.

Hence, it's key not just to ensure you pay your credit card bills on time, but also have the discipline to spend only what can be repaid in full, on time.

'Minimum due' pitfall

Along with the 'Total Amount Due', card issuers also provide an option to pay the "Minimum Amount Due" on or before the due date, to keep the card active and avoid late payment charges. This minimum amount due is a small fraction of the total due, usually about 5%. However, on paying only the minimum due, the unpaid balance on the card starts attracting finance charges which, in case of some cards, can go as high as 40% p.a.

When you revolve the balance to the next billing cycle, finance charges will also be levied on new transactions until you pay off the entire outstanding balance. This can rapidly increase your debt burden.

ATM withdrawal

Though withdrawing cash from an ATM using your credit card may seem like an easy solution for your cash needs, it is one of the costliest forms of borrowing. It attracts three types of charges.

Firs is the cash advance fee, which is usually about 3.5% of the amount withdrawn. Second, finance charges on the cash withdrawn, which can go as high as 40% p.a. And third, all new transactions made through the credit card after you withdraw cash also start attracting finance charges from day one.

This means once you have withdrawn cash using your credit card, you can no longer enjoy the interest-free period on your new transactions, till the time you repay the cash advance. While cash advance fee is a one-time charge, the finance charges will be levied every day until the amount is fully paid off.

If you withdraw cash and do not repay it quickly, you may end up paying a substantial amount in finance charges. Hence, cash advances on credit cards should always be considered as the last resort. A personal loan or loan against credit card can be a better alternative to meet financial exigencies.

A higher limit, used wisely, can come in handy during emergencies; it also gives you higher purchasing power to make the most of deals on offer

Exhausting limit

If you exhaust the entire credit limit available to you regularly, it may adversely impact your credit score as your credit utilisation ratio (CUR) becomes extremely high. The CUR is a percentage of your total available limit that you are currently using.

If your CUR is high, especially when you are nearing or breaching the credit limit on your credit card frequently, you would be perceived as a credit dependent individual and this can impact your credit score negatively. If you are maxing out your credit card regularly, you can apply for additional credit cards or request your card issuer to increase your credit limit.

Interest-free period

One of the most important features of a credit card is the interest-free period. It is the period between the date of making a purchase and the due date of payment.

If you clear all your dues on time, transactions carried out during this period do not incur finance charges. Transactions you make at the beginning of your billing cycle will be eligible for a longer interest-free period. If you have multiple credit cards with varying billing cycles, you should spread your purchases across these cards in such a way that you can get maximum benefit of the interest-free period, especially when making big-ticket transactions.

Making high-value purchases at the beginning of your cycle will give you more time to pay them off.

Limit increase

Having a low credit limit on your credit card can be a big disadvantage as it restricts your purchases, even if you have sufficient repayment capacity. This also limits your chances of earning higher rewards through higher spends and pushes you towards a higher CUR. A higher limit, on the other hand, if used judiciously, can be very useful.

It comes in handy at the time of emergencies as well as gives you a higher purchasing power to make the most of deals and discounts during offer periods. The increased limit also brings down your overall credit utilisation ratio that can be a positive influence on your credit score.

Reward point expiry

Most credit cards come with a reward points programme wherein cardholders earn reward points, and the accumulated points can be redeemed for gift vouchers, merchandise or statement credit.

However, reward points have expiry dates, usually 2-3 years from the date of earning them. Your monthly credit card statement contains the details of points that are about to expire in the said month. It is important to keep track of the expiry of reward points so that you do not miss out on this benefit.

(The writer is Associate Director & Business Head (Cards), Paisabazaar.com)

THINK INVESTOR: X FACTOR

Luck and skill have a role to play in investment success

For goal-based portfolios, it is better to invest in bank deposits where the maturity value is known

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

A well-known dictionary defines luck as 'a force that brings good fortune or adversity.' Individuals typically attribute success to their skills.

The behaviour of attributing success to skill and failure to bad luck is called self-attribution bias. In this article, we discuss how such biases shape our attitude towards luck in our personal finance.

Success versus skill

If skill is all it takes to be successful, why are many not-so-skilful individuals rich and why are so many brilliant and skilful ones having a boring day job?

It is natural to attribute success to skill and hard work, and failure to laziness, especially when the latter relates to someone else. The fact is that luck is an integral part of everyone's success. You could become overconfident when you suffer from self-attribution bias, taking more investment risk than is required. Self-attribution bias also leads to hindsight bias.

This refers to our behaviour to look back at your decisions and believe that the events were predictable. Hindsight bias could prompt us to attribute a successful outcome to our skill of having predicted the event correctly.

The issue is that luck has two sides. Risk is the possibility that your seemingly good decision can have an adverse future outcome (bad luck?).

Good luck (often attributed to skill) is when a seemingly bad decision turns into a positive outcome. The point is that we rarely consider a decision as bad when we experience a positive outcome. So, the role of luck is rarely acknowledged in investment success.

Adjusting investment calls

If you are convinced that luck plays an important role in your personal finance, how should you adjust your investment decisions? Active funds are expected to generate positive alpha. So, the investment outcome of such a fund depends on two elements – skill (and luck) of a portfolio manager and your skill (and luck) of choosing the right manager. This, perhaps, explains why an active fund that you pick does not consistently generate positive alpha (excess returns that a fund generates over its appropriate benchmark).

Passive funds depend solely on the performance of their benchmark index. The investment outcome of a such a fund depends on your luck that the market will perform well during the time horizon for your life goal – a factor that you are anyway exposed to because you cannot diversify market risk. Your investment success, therefore, depends on the market outcome (both active and passive funds) and the fund manager's performance (only active funds).

But this does not in any way reduce the importance of your skill to balance current lifestyle and save for the future, and to choose investment products. Yet, for all your efforts, if the portfolio manager's bad luck coincides with the time horizon for your life goal, you may be unable to achieve your goal. From the above, passive funds seem better for a goal-based portfolio, as you are exposed to only one element of luck (market outcome).

Game of chance: When an outcome is uncertain, luck assumes a critical part in the way things turn out. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Conclusion

Luck plays an important role when an outcome is uncertain. Some attribute such outcome to randomness. The point is that luck (or randomness) plays a less important role in your investment in bank deposits compared to your equity investments. Why? Ignoring the small credit risk you are exposed to, the maturity value of a cumulative deposit or a recurring deposit is known. That is one of the reasons you must invest in bank deposits for your goal-based portfolios.

Even those who recognise the role of luck in their investment success are likely to offer varying explanations. For instance, luck can be explained using astrology, philosophy, or spirituality. Whatever your personal belief, remember this: the outcome of your personal investment decisions is dependent on luck and skill. So, acknowledge the role of (good) luck and moderate your self-attribution bias and hindsight bias. That could improve your financial well-being.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 Lakh Tenure - 5 years	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 1 Lakh Tenure - 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
HDFC Bank	10.25 onwards	10,685.13 onwards	2,137.03 onwards	Upto 2.5% (Max Rs 25,000)
ICICI Bank	10.25 onwards	10,685.13 onwards	2,137.03 onwards	Upto 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.40-16.00	10,722-12,159	2,144-2,432	2% (Min Rs 1,000 and Max Rs 10,000)
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.25 onwards	10,685 onwards	2,137 onwards	Upto 2.5%
Canara Bank	10.20-13.90	10,673-11,608	2,135-2,322	Upto 1%
Punjab National Bank	7.90-14.45	10,114-11,751	2,022-2,350	Up to 1%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Upto 3%
Union Bank of India	8.90-13.00	10,355-11,377	2,071-2,275	Upto 1% (Max Rs 7,500)
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.50-11.50	10,501-10,996	2,100-2,199	Upto 1%
South Indian Bank	10.75-18.50	10,809-12,833	2,162-2,567	Up to 2%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.00-11.00	10,623-10,871	2,124-2174	Upto 0.75%
Indian Bank*	8.50-9.00	10.258-10,379	2,051-2,075	1%
Karnataka Bank	12.00-17.00	11,122-12,426	2,224-2,485	Up to 2% (Max Rs 8,500)

**For pensioners, NIL processing fees for loan upto Rs 25,000, and fees of Rs 250 for loan above Rs 25,000.*

NEW CAR LOAN-RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure-5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
Union Bank of India	6.80-8.00	9,853-10,138	Rs. 1,000
Punjab National Bank	6.65-8.75	9,818-10,319	0.25% (Rs 1,000-1,500)
Bank of Baroda	7.40-10.70	9,995-10,797	0.50% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	7.30-9.90	9,972-10,599	0.25% (Rs 1,000-5,000)
Bank of India	6.85-8.55	9,965-10,343	Up to 0.25% (Max. 5,000)
State Bank of India*	7.15-8.05	9,983-10,150	NIL
Bank of Maharashtra**	6.80-10.30	9,995-10,722	waived off till 30th June 2022
Indian Overseas Bank	7.55	10,031	0.5% - 0.6% (Rs 500-Rs 10,000)
ICICI Bank	7.50-9.00	10,019-10,379	Rs 5,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	7.95-8.30	10,126-10,210	0.5% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	7.95-10.00	10,126-10,624	0.5% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.10-9.20	10,162-10,428	1% of the loan amount
Federal Bank	8.90	10,355	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Axis Bank	7.45-14.50	10,007-11,764	Rs 3,500-Rs 5,500
South Indian Bank	9.55-11.00	10,513-10,871	1% (Max: Rs. 10,000)
City Union Bank	12.25-12.75	11,185-11,313	1% (Min: Rs 250)

**Further interest rate concession of 0.20% on purchase of electric vehicle(Green Car Loan)*

***0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder. 0.05% concession on interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR.*

Rates and charges as on May 5 — *Source: Paisabazaar.com*

Conway shows the way yet again as Super Kings crush Capitals

Opener continues to flourish as the Chennai side amasses 208; Ruturaj, Dube and Dhoni, too, come good; Moeen & Co. skittle out Delhi for 117

IPL 2022

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE
NAVI MUMBAI

Chennai Super Kings' sagacious effort with the bat was in stark contrast to Delhi Capitals' overeager batters in a lop-sided IPL contest at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on Sunday. Chasing a total of 208, Capitals crumbled for 117.

Capitals lost the openers early before Mitchell Marsh and Rishabh Pant made good use of the PowerPlay overs. However, Marsh's dismissal in the eighth over – his slog-sweep off Moeen Ali landed in the hands of the long-on fielder – turned out to be the turning point as the innings took a nosedive after that. By the 11th over, the contest was virtually over as four more wickets fell for 13 runs.

Rishabh Pant was castled by Moeen with a delivery that spun from off to leg; Ripal Patel holed out trying one slog-sweep too many; Axar Patel was bowled by an incutter from Mukesh Choudhary and Rovman Powell nicked behind attempting to cut Mukesh.

Earlier, the Super Kings batters had hardly given the opposition a sniff until three-quarters into their innings. Devon Conway (87, 49b, 7x4, 5x6) continued his dream run, producing some lusty hits, while Ruturaj Gaikwad gave him solid support with a brisk 41 (33b, 4x4, 1x6).

Conway took a special liking for the Capitals spinners. He went down the track and hit a couple of sixes off Axar in the PowerPlay. The Kiwi went after Kuldeep Yadav in his first over, dancing down the track to slam a six and slog-sweeping him for a six and a four.

With the ball coming on to the bat nicely, Kuldeep's flighted deliveries were fodder for the batters and he was hit for three fours in a row in his second over.

It was Anrich Nortje who broke through with the fastest ball of the day (152.6 kph), dismissing Ruturaj with a sharp bouncer. The opener's pull landed in the hands of Axar at midwicket.

Conway continued merrily, finding another able partner in Shivam Dube, who replaced the injured Ravindra Jadeja. After a relatively slow start, Dube provided the impetus in the 16th over, teeing off against Shardul Thakur. Dube was dropped off the second delivery of that over by Axar at deep square-leg and celebrated it by smashing two sixes and a four. After Conway and Dube (32, 19b, 2x4, 2x6) departed trying to accelerate, skipper M.S. Dhoni (21 n.o., 8b, 1x4, 2x6) had the fans on their feet as he provided the finishing kick. Yellow was ubiquitous in the stands and the Super Kings supporters went ballistic as Dhoni tonked a six down the ground off Marsh and cut the next delivery for four. Dhoni hit another six, smashing Khaleel Ahmed over long-off. Super Kings' night couldn't have been better.

Fizzle and sizzle: Pant's men failed in the chase after Conway had powered Super Kings to a big total. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Ruturaj Gaikwad c Axar b Nortje 41 *(33b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Devon Conway c Pant b Khaleel 87 *(49b, 7x4, 5x6)*, Shivam Dube c Warner b Marsh 32 *(19b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Ambati Rayudu c Axar b Khaleel 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, M.S. Dhoni (not out) 21 *(8b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Moeen Ali c Warner b Nortje 9 *(4b, 2x4)*, Robin Uthappa c sub (Nagarkoti) b Nortje 0 *(1b)*, Dwayne Bravo (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (w-11, nb-1): 12; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 208.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-110 (Ruturaj, 10.6 ov), 2-169 (Conway, 16.3), 3-170 (Dube, 17.1), 4-187 (Rayudu, 18.2), 5-203 (Moeen, 19.2), 6-203 (Uthappa, 19.3).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Shardul 3-0-38-0, Khaleel 4-0-28-2, Nortje 4-0-42-3, Axar 3-0-23-0, Kuldeep 3-0-43-0, Marsh 3-0-34-1.

DELHI CAPITALS
David Warner lbw b Theekshana 19 *(12b, 1x4, 2x6)*, K.S. Bharat c Moeen b Simarjeet 8 *(5b, 2x4)*, Mitchell Marsh c Ruturaj b Moeen 25 *(20b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Rishabh Pant b Moeen 21 *(11b, 4x4)*, Rovman Powell c Dhoni b Mukesh 3 *(9b)*, Ripal Patel c Conway b Moeen 6 *(3b, 1x6)*, Axar Patel b Mukesh 1 *(3b)*, Shardul Thakur c Dhoni b Bravo 24 *(19b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Kuldeep Yadav c Uthappa b Simarjeet 5 *(7b)*, Anrich Nortje (not out) 1 *(6b)*, Khaleel Ahmed b Bravo 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-2): 4; Total (in 17.4 overs): 117.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-16 (Bharat, 1.5), 2-36 (Warner, 4.2), 3-72 (Marsh, 7.3), 4-75 (Pant, 9.1), 5-81 (Ripal, 9.4), 6-82 (Axar, 10.1), 7-85 (Powell, 10.5), 8-99 (Kuldeep, 15.2), 9-117 (Thakur, 17.3).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Mukesh 3-0-22-2, Simarjeet 4-0-27-2, Theekshana 4-0-29-1, Bravo 2.4-0-24-2, Moeen 4-0-13-3.

Toss: DC.
MoM: Conway.
CSK won by 91 runs.

Innings scan

CSK		DC
33	Dots	58
17	Fours	12
10	Sixes	5
57/0	PP	59/2
10.40	RR	6.62

Next assignment

DC: May 11 vs. **RR**
DY Patil, 7.30 p.m.

CSK: May 12 vs. **MI**
Wankhede, 7.30 p.m.

Royal Challengers exact revenge for first encounter humiliation

Hasaranga, du Plessis and Karthik contribute to handsome victory; no end to Kohli and Williamson's miserable season

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MUMBAI

The wry smile followed by the trudge back to the dressing room said it all. Virat Kohli's season of misery continues.

But his second golden duck within a fortnight didn't stop Royal Challengers Bangalore from posting a massive 67-run victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL at the Wankhede Stadium here on Sunday.

Sunrisers captain Kane Williamson, who has been having a worse tournament, was run out without facing a delivery.

Unlike Royal Challengers, the Hyderabad franchise could not recover from a terrible start as it fell well short of the target of 193.

Spinning a web: Hasaranga made sure Sunrisers' chase would fall short. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Breathtaking strokeplay

Captain Faf du Plessis (73 not out, 50b, 8x4, 2x6) played the anchor role after winning the toss. He also got to watch some breathtaking strokeplay from a vantage point, as Rajat Patidar (48, 38b, 4x4, 2x6), Glenn Maxwell (33, 24b, 3x4, 2x6) and the irrepressible Dinesh Karthik (30 not out, 8b, 1x4, 4x6) went after the bowling.

It was indeed a stunning cameo from the Tamil Nadu wicketkeeper. He hit three successive sixes and then a four in the final over, bowled by Fazalhaq Farooqi, the left-arm seamer from Afghanishtan making his debut in the competition.

The first of those sixes though was actually a dropped catch by Rahul Tripathi at deep square-leg; 25 came off the over.

Karthik remained unbeaten for the eighth time in 12 innings this season. He now has 274 runs at a strike rate of 200 and an average of 68.50.

The Royal Challengers innings began in dramatic fashion. Williamson decided to open the bowling with the left-arm spin of J. Suchith. The first ball was a harmless half-volley, off which Kohli gave a comfortable catch to the Sunrisers captain at short mid-wicket.

But Patidar put on 105 for the second with his captain, off just 73 balls. That would prove crucial.

Terrible start

Sunrisers' chase began on the wrong foot, with non-striker Williamson being run-out by a direct hit from Shahbaz Ahmed from cover off the first ball of the innings.

Off the fifth ball, Maxwell knocked back the off-stump of Sunrisers' leading run-getter, Abhishek Sharma, who tried to pull across the line.

Tripathi (58, 37b, 6x4, 2x6) and Aiden Markram (21, 27b) added 50 for the third wicket before the South African became one of Wanindu Hasaranga's five victims.

His splendid spell helped his side exact revenge for the nine-wicket defeat by Sunrisers a couple of weeks ago.

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Virat Kohli c Williamson b Suchith 0 *(1b)*, Faf du Plessis (not out) 73 *(50b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Rajat Patidar c Tripathi b Suchith 48 *(38b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Glenn Maxwell c Markram b Tyagi 33 *(24b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 30 *(8b, 1x4, 4x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-6, nb-1): 8; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 192.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Kohli, 0.1 ov), 2-105 (Patidar, 12.2), 3-159 (Maxwell, 18.2).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Suchith 4-0-30-2, Bhuvneshwar 4-0-34-0, Farooqi 4-0-47-0, Tyagi 4-0-42-1, Umran 2-0-25-0, Abhishek 2-0-13-0.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Abhishek Sharma b Maxwell 0 *(3b)*, Kane Williamson run out 0 *(0b)*, Rahul Tripathi c Lomror b Hazlewood 58 *(37b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Aiden Markram c Kohli b Hasaranga 21 *(27b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Nicholas Pooran c Shahbaz b Hasaranga 19 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, J. Suchith st. Karthik b Hasaranga 2 *(7b)*, Shashank Singh c Maxwell b Hasaranga 8 *(9b, 1x6)*, Kartik Tyagi c Patidar b Hazlewood 0 *(1b)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar c du Plessis b Harshal 8 *(9b, 1x4)*, Umran Malik lbw b Hasaranga 0 *(1b)*, Fazalhaq Farooqi (not out) 2 *(8b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-4): 7; Total (in 19.2 overs): 125.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Williamson, 0.1), 2-1 (Abhishek, 0.5), 3-51 (Markram, 8.2), 4-89 (Pooran, 12.1), 5-104 (Suchith, 14.2), 6-114 (Tripathi, 15.4), 7-114 (Tyagi, 15.5), 8-114 (Shashank, 16.3), 9-114 (Umran, 16.4).

RCB BOWLING
Maxwell 2-0-13-1, Hazlewood 4-0-17-2, Shahbaz 2-0-20-0, Siraj 3-0-27-0, Lomror 1-0-7-0, Harshal 3.2-0-20-1, Hasaranga 4-1-18-5.

Toss: RCB; **MoM:** Hasaranga.
RCB won by 67 runs.

Innings scan

RCB		SRH
41	Dots	55
16	Fours	10
10	Sixes	5
47/1	PP	39/2
9.60	RR	6.46

Next assignment

RCB: May 13 vs. **PBKS**
Brabourne, 7.30 p.m.

SRH: May 14 vs. **KKR**
MCA Stadium, 7.30 p.m.

The next 7 days

May 9 (Mon)	**MI vs. KKR**	7.30 p.m.	DY Patil
May 10 (Tue)	**LSG vs. GT**	7.30 p.m.	MCA Stadium
May 11 (Wed)	**RR vs. DC**	7.30 p.m.	DY Patil
May 12 (Thu)	**CSK vs. MI**	7.30 p.m.	Wankhede
May 13 (Fri)	**RCB vs. PBKS**	7.30 p.m.	Brabourne
May 14 (Sat)	**KKR vs. SRH**	7.30 p.m.	MCA Stadium
May 15 (Sun)	**CSK vs. GT**	3.30 p.m.	Wankhede
May 15 (Sun)	**LSG vs. RR**	7.30 p.m.	Brabourne

MI test for floundering KKR

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE
NAVI MUMBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders was flourishing and Mumbai Indians was floundering the last time the teams crossed paths. Now the tables have turned; Rohit Sharma & Co. have started to find their feet at last while Knight Riders are going through a slump in form.

In the race to make it to the playoffs, Knight Riders have more to lose in the contest at the DY Patil Stadium here on Monday as five-time champion Mumbai has already been knocked out.

Coming into this game on the back of two wins on the trot, Mumbai Indians will be the more confident outfit. Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan are beginning to find their touch.

Ishan, the costliest purchase at the IPL auction, seems to have overcome his lean patch, after a bright start to the season.

The bowling hasn't been outstanding but the bowlers – in particular Daniel Sams – are thriving on a nothing-to-lose mentality. Much will be expected of spinners M. Ashwin and Kumar Kartikeya at a venue becoming known for low scores.

Knight Riders have been well served by their bowlers with Umesh Yadav and Sunil Narine, in particular, performing well. But their struggle with the top-order is resulting in big defeats.

TODAY'S MATCH

MUMBAI INDIANS vs. KNIGHT RIDERS

DY PATIL, 7.30 P.M

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 30
MI 22 | KKR 8

Previous meeting
KKR won by five wickets, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Lucknow Super Giants	11	8	3	16	0.703
Gujarat Titans	11	8	3	16	0.120
Rajasthan Royals	11	7	4	14	0.326
Royal Challengers Bangalore	12	7	5	14	-0.115
Delhi Capitals	11	5	6	10	0.150
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	5	6	10	-0.031
Punjab Kings	11	5	6	10	-0.231
Chennai Super Kings	11	4	7	8	0.028
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	4	7	8	-0.304
Mumbai Indians (E)	10	2	8	4	-0.725

After the CSK-DC match on May 8 *E: Eliminated*

QUICK SINGLES

Shaw in hospital with high fever

MUMBAI

Delhi Capitals opener Prithvi Shaw was on Sunday admitted to a city hospital due to high fever though he tested negative for COVID-19. Earlier on Sunday, the Capitals players were put in isolation after a net bowler tested positive for COVID-19. PTI

Hetmyer flies home for birth of first child

MUMBAI

A few hours after taking Rajasthan Royals home in the IPL encounter against Punjab Kings, Shimron Hetmyer flew home to Guyana on Sunday morning to attend the birth of his first child. He is, however, expected to be back soon, according to the franchise.

City wins big to go three points clear

Reds held to a draw by Spurs; Barcelona secures CL spot

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
LIVERPOOL

Manchester City reclaimed top spot in the Premier League with a 5-0 drubbing of Newcastle United at home, that allowed the reigning champion to open up a three-point lead over Liverpool, on Sunday.

Raheem Sterling scored twice with Aymeric Laporte, Rodri and Phil Foden also on target as City shrugged off the bitter disappointment of the Champions League semi-final defeat by Real Madrid.

The Reds had suffered a huge blow on Saturday as they could only draw 1-1 at home to Tottenham Hotspur.

City has 86 points to Liverpool's 83 with both sides having three games remaining and City now has a superior goal difference.

Everton climbed out of the relegation zone with a hard-fought 2-1 win at Leicester City but Leeds United suffered a setback in its battle for survival as a 2-1 loss at Arsenal on Sunday plunged it into the relegation zone even as the host took another step towards securing a top-four finish.

Sterling hit a brace for City. • AFP

A stoppage-time goal from defender Jordi Alba earned Barcelona a 2-1 La Liga win at Real Betis on Saturday, securing Xavi Hernandez's side a spot in Champions League next season. Barcelona is now second on 69 points in the standings, four points clear of Sevilla in third.

Important results:

Premier League: Arsenal 2 (Nketiah 5, 10) bt Leeds 1 (Llorente 66); Leicester 1 (Daka 11) lost to Everton 2 (Mykolenko 6, Holgate 30); Manchester City 5 (Sterling 19, 90+2, Laporte 38, Rodri 61, Foden 90) bt Newcastle 0; Norwich 0 lost to West Ham 4 (Benrahma 12, 45, Antonio 30, Lanzini 65-pen).

La Liga: Villarreal 1 (Lo Celso 86) drew with Sevilla 1 (Kounde 90+5).

Bundesliga: Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Paciencia 66) drew with Borussia Moenchengladbach 1 (Plea 4); Bayern Munich 2 (Mavropanos 35-og, Mueller 44) drew with VfB Stuttgart 2 (Tomas 8, Kalajdzic 52).

On Saturday: Premier League: Liverpool 1 (Diaz 74) drew with Tottenham 1 (Son 56).

La Liga: Real Betis 1 (Bartra 79) lost to Barcelona 2 (Fati 76, Alba 90+4).

Alcaraz is master of Madrid

The 19-year-old crushes Zverev in the summit clash

MADRID OPEN

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MADRID

Carlos Alcaraz brushed aside Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-1 in 62 minutes to clinch the Madrid Open title on Sunday. The result extended the 19-year-old's winning streak to 10.

Alcaraz, who had beaten Rafael Nadal and World No. 1 Novak Djokovic on his way to the final, will climb to No. 6 in the rankings.

"This tournament is special for me because it's a tournament I came and watched when I was seven or eight," said Alcaraz.

"Right now you are the best player in the world," Zverev told Alcaraz on court after the match.

The Spaniard broke in the sixth game and comfortably held his serve to take the first set. The German second seed held serve in the first game of the second set and that was the last game he won. Alcaraz galloped through the next five games and took a 0-40 lead on Zverev's serve before the German saved three match points. However, Zverev double-faulted on deuce and also on the fourth match point to hand Alcaraz victory.

"This is tennis. You cannot be perfect every day," said Zverev, who had prevailed over Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semifinal.

In the women's section, Ons Jabeur of Tunisia won the biggest title of her career by defeating Jessica Pegula of the U.S. 7-5, 0-6, 6-3. This was her second WTA crown.

The results:

Final: Alcaraz bt Zverev 6-3, 6-1; **Semifinal:** Zverev bt Tsitsipas 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

Showstopper: Alcaraz became the youngest ever to win the Madrid Open. • REUTERS

Annu breaks her own National mark

SPORTS BUREAU

Olympian Annu Rani broke her own women's National record in the fourth Indian Open javelin throw meet in Jamshedpur on Sunday.

The 29-year-old from Uttar Pradesh threw 63.82m in her opening attempt that bettered her previous best of 63.24, which came in the Federation Cup in Patiala last year. She had 60.10 in her second attempt on Sunday.

It was the eighth time Annu was breaking the National record after first achieving the feat in 2014.

Sanjana Choudhary, who took the silver, was nearly 10m behind.

MP's Vivek Kumar (u-20 men, 68.67m), Haryana's Yash Saini (u-18 boys, 67.42m) and Delhi's Disha (u-18 girls, 34.87m) won the gold on the opening day of the two-day meet.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Vh1, MTV, Voot Select & Jio TV, 5 a.m.
Badminton: Thomas & Uber Cup, Sports 18 & Voot Select, 7.30 a.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18, Vh1, Voot Select & Jio TV, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF

Giannis scores 42 to lead Bucks over Celtics

SAN FRANCISCO

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 42 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and had eight assists to spark defending champion Milwaukee Bucks over Boston Celtics 103-101 on Saturday in the NBA playoffs.

The results:
EC: Milwaukee 103 bt Boston 101 (Milwaukee leads 2-1);
WC:
Golden State 142 bt Memphis 112 (Golden State leads 2-1). AFP

Dhanush-Priyesha duo shoots gold

CAXIAS DO SUL (BRAZIL)

Dhanush Srikanth and Priyesha Deshmukh beat Germany's Sebastian Herrmany and Sabrina Eckert 16-10 to win the 10m air rifle mixed team competition at the 24th Deaflympics here on Saturday. Shourya and Natasha Joshi finished fourth. PTI

Indian GP 3 and 4 moved to Bhubaneswar

KOCHI

The Athletics Federation of India has changed the venue of third and fourth legs of the Indian Grand Prix from Thiruvananthapuram to Bhubaneswar because of track issues. The dates of the two IGP legs have been changed too — third leg on May 21 (instead of May 17) and the fourth on May 24 (instead of May 21).

Bivol stuns Alvarez to retain light-heavy title

LAS VEGAS

Unbeaten Dmitry Bivol retained his WBA light-heavyweight World title with a unanimous points decision over Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez on Saturday, handing the Mexican superstar just the second defeat of his career. Russia's Bivol improved to 20-0 with 11 knockouts, while multi-weight champion Alvarez fell to 57-2 with two draws. AFP

Lahiri shoots up to tied third at Wells Fargo

POTOMAC (US)

Anirban Lahiri battled cold, wet and windy conditions to rise to third place at the Wells Fargo Championship here on Saturday with an even par 70. He was five-under 206, four shots behind leader Keegan Bradley. PTI

Karnataka beats TN

SPORTS BUREAU

After the glut of goals and one-sided matches on day two, things returned to a semblance of normalcy on the third day of the 12th Hockey India women's senior National championship in Bhopal on Sunday comparatively with the total goals scored being less than that scored in one game the previous day.

In Pool F, Karnataka registered a convincing 3-0 win over Tamil Nadu.

Important results: Pool F: Karnataka 3 (M.D. Pooja, P.C. Nisha, Shaina Thangamma) bt Tamil Nadu 0; Arunachal bt Andaman & Nicobar 5-0 (match forfeit).
Pool H: Himachal 3 (Ritu Rani, Narinder Kaur, Hardeep Kaur) bt Kerala 1 (Anju Shaji).

Top players, teams win accolades at KSCA's annual awards

Secretary Santosh says Karnataka is BCCI's preferred destination as host, adds that Bengaluru is the only city which has five First Class grounds

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

The top performers and teams from across the State were honoured at the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) 2019-22 annual awards function at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday.

KSCA secretary Santosh Menon stated that Karnataka is a preferred destination when it comes to hosting matches. "The BCCI does not look beyond Karnataka and Bengaluru when it comes to hosting matches. This is especially true for Bengaluru, which is the only city in the country to have five First Class grounds," Santosh said.

Pat for grounds persons

Santosh made special mention of the grounds persons, who worked tirelessly through tough conditions. "The biggest challenge we faced was the upkeep of our grounds during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our grounds persons were up to the challenge. We must thank them for risking their lives and working on our grounds," Santosh said.

The awardees:

2021-22: Inter-Club tournament: U-14: Highest run-getter: Atharv Malviya (Vultures); **highest wicket-taker:** Bhuvan Shivkumar (Vultures); **winner:** Dooravani Cricketers (1).

U-16: Highest run-getter: M.B. Shivam (Swastic Union 2); **highest wicket-taker:** K.P. Karthikeya (Vultures); **winner: Swastic Union 2.**

U-19: Highest run-getter: P. Dhruv (Vijaya); **highest wicket-taker:** Dheeraj Gowda (Century Cricketers); **winner:** Vijaya CC.

Inter-zonal tournament: U-16: Highest run-getter: Ravi Kairav (Vice President's XI); **highest wicket-taker:** Pranav Aswath (President's XI).

U-19: Highest run-getter: Vijaya Raj (Raichur Zone); **highest wicket-taker:** Sufiyan Sharief (Bangalore City XI).

U-25 S.A. Srinivasan Memorial tournament: Highest run-getter: L.R. Chethan (Mysore Zone); **highest wicket-taker:** Rohith Kumar (Dharwad Zone)

League: Group I, V Division: Highest run-getter: M.B. Basavaraj (Seshadripuram PUC); **highest wicket-taker:** Prathap (Jaidur Cricketers); **winner: Lions CC.**

Group I, IV Division: Highest run-getter: Naveen Shankara (Duleep Cricketers); **highest wicket-taker:** Pradeep Kumar (Sparklers); **winner:** Vikram CC.

Group I, III Division: Highest run-getter: K. Gagandeep (Hanumanthnagar); **highest wicket-taker:** B. Vineeth (Dooravani Cricketers 1); **winner:** Hanumanthnagar CC.

Group I, II Division: Highest run-getter: Kruthik Krishna (Jawahar 1); **highest wicket-taker:** Aditya Mani (Herons); **winner:** Jawahar SC 1.

Group I, I Division: Highest run-getter: Mohammed Aqib (Modern); **highest wicket-taker:** Shreyas Gopal (Swastic Union 1); **winner:** Rajajinagar Cricketers.

Inter-club T20 tournament: Highest run-getter: B.R. Sharath (Mount Joy); **highest wicket-taker:** Nischith Rao (Rajajinagar Cricketers); **winner:** Social Cricketers

Special awards: BCCI-Under-19 women's One Day Trophy: Highest run-getter: G.R. Prerana; **highest wicket-taker:** Chandasi Krishnamurthy.

BCCI-Senior women's One Day Trophy: Highest run-getter: Vrinda Dinesh; **highest wicket-taker:** V. Chandu.

BCCI-Senior women's T20 Trophy: Highest run-getter: Shubha Satheesh; **highest wicket-taker:** V. Chandu.

BCCI-Under-19 men's Vinoo Mankad Trophy (One Day): Highest run-getter: Aneeshwar Gautam; **highest wicket-taker:** Dhanush Gowda.

BCCI-Under-19 men's Cooch-Behar Trophy (multi-day): Highest run-getter: Vishal Onat; **highest wicket-taker:** K. Shashikumar.

BCCI-Under-25 men's One Day Trophy: Highest run-getter: K.V. Aneesh; **highest wicket-taker:** M. Venkatesh.

BCCI-Under-25 men's Col.C.K. Nayudu Trophy (multi-day): Highest run-getter: Kishan Bedare; **highest wicket-taker:** Rohit Kumar.

BCCI-Vijay Hazare Trophy: Highest run-getter: R. Samarth; **highest wicket-taker:** Pravin Dubey.

BCCI-Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Highest run-getter: Manish Pandey; **highest wicket-taker:** K.C. Cariappa

2020-21: Y.S. Ramaswamy Memorial tournament: Highest run-getter: Nihal Ullal (Rajajinagar Cricketers); **highest wicket-taker:** Vidyadhar Patil (Vijaya); **winner:** Vultures.

Inter-Club T20 tournament: Highest run-getter: S.M. Rajkumar (Jawahar 1); **highest wicket-taker:** Kushal Pramesh (The Bangalore Cricketers); **winner:** Vultures.

Inter-club tournament: U-16: Highest run-getter: Srujan Nandan (Swastic Union 1); **highest wicket-taker:** Ansh Aima (Vultures); **winner:** Swastic Union 2; **U-19: Highest run-getter:** R. Smaran (Vultures); **highest wicket-taker:** Jay Desai (Vijaya); **winner:** Vijaya CC.

Under-19 Inter-Zonal tournament: Highest run-getter: N.A. Chinmay (Bangalore Zone); **highest wicket-taker:** K. Gaurav (Moffusil XI).

U-23 S.A. Srinivasan Memorial tournament: Highest run-getter: Lochan Appanna (President's XI); **highest wicket-taker:** S. Punith (President's XI).

Special awards: BCCI-Senior women's One Day Trophy: Highest run-getter: Shubha Satheesh; **highest wicket-taker:** V. Chandu.

BCCI-Vijay Hazare Trophy: Highest run-getter: Devdutt Padikkal; **highest wicket-taker:** Prasidh Krishna

BCCI-Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Highest run-getter: Devdutt Padikkal; **highest wicket-taker:** J. Suchith.

Champion outfit: Members of the Rajajinagar Cricketers team receiving the Sir Mirza Ismail Shield from Mithali Raj. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Gukesh clinches third consecutive title

The triumph helps teenager to vault to 64th in live World rankings

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

The country's youngest Grandmaster D. Gukesh completed a hat-trick of titles spread over the past month with a fine triumph in the Chessables Sunway Formentera International chess tournament at Punta Prima, Spain on Sunday.

The 15-year-old scored eight points from 10 rounds to stretch the sequence of title-triumphs that includes the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open last month.

In Saturday's ninth round, Gukesh outfoxed compatriot, second seed K. Sasikiran in 49 moves and then drew the final round with Armenia's Haik Martirosyan (7) in 25 moves to top the field.

It was the second-board draw involving top seed Latasa Jaime Santos (Spain, 7.5) and third seed Shant Sargsyan (Armenia, 7.5) that eased pressure on Gukesh.

This unbeaten performance earned Gukesh 15.6 rating points, raised his live rating to 2674.6 and placed him 64th in the world.

Meanwhile, at Malmo, Arjun Erigaisi (3 points) let go of a golden opportunity to nail Dutchman Jorden van Foreest in the closing moments of their drawn encounter in the fifth round of Tepe Sigeman round-robin tournament on Saturday.

The draw kept Arjun in second, jointly with Nils Grandelius (Sweden). Leader Hans Moke Niemann (4) enlarged his lead to one point after beating Alexei Shirov.

The results: Fifth round: Jordeen van Foreest (Ned, 2.5) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (3); Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 4) bt Alexei Shirov (Isr, 1.5); Nils Grandelius (Swe, 3) bt Saleh Salem (UAE, 1.5); Michael Adams (Eng, 2.5) drew with David Navara (Cze, 1.5).

D. Gukesh... on a roll.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Lalmuanzoua scores a brace

Lalmuanzoua accounted for a brace as Friends United FC defeated Income Tax FC 4-1 in the BDFA A-division league championship on Sunday.

A BDFA B-division match between Vehicles FC and Sree Gajanana FC didn't finish after a controversy between Vehicles FC and match officials over an off-side decision was unresolved.

Sree Gajanana was leading 1-0, courtesy a 69th minute strike.

The results:
BDFA A-div.: Friends United 4 (Donbosco 14, Lalmuanzoua 38, 59, Sudarshan 55) bt Income Tax 1 (Kapil 65).
KSFA C-div.: Roots 3 (Sham 17, R. Vishal 33, 41) bt Coffee Land 1 (Sachin 26).

Pavadeep cracks century, Panthers wins

Pavadeep Bharadakane top-scored with 129 as Panthers CA defeated SRCA by 123 runs in an under-12 match of the Tiger Cup cricket tournament on Sunday.

The scores:
Panthers 267/3 in 30 overs (Pavandeep Bharadakane 129, Siddarth Ram Narayan 72) bt SRCA 144/8 in 30 overs (Akhilesh 50).

FC Agniputhra's trials

Bengaluru-based FC Agniputhra will conduct selection trials for its football team on May 26 and 27 at the HAL SC ground from 8 a.m..

Call 99005 78916 / 99000 08288.

Para-swimmer Niranjan rewrites Asian record

Bengaluru para-swimmer Niranjan Mukundan rewrote a 12-year-old Asian record in 800m freestyle s7 category at the Czech Para Swimming Cup 2022 on Sunday.

Niranjan finished in 11:17.22 to secure the gold, bettering South Korean Kim Sejin's previous mark of 12:10.34 set in 2010.

He finished the meet with three golds, two silvers and one bronze medal.

Likhitha, Aishwarya set new marks

ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU

M. Likhitha (400m) and B. Aishwarya (triple jump) set new meet records on the opening day of the Karnataka State Athletics Championship in Udupi on Sunday.

Likitha, representing Dakshina Kannada, clocked 53.18s to better Vijaya Kumari's timing of 53.3 from 2018. Aishwarya, of Fusion Athletics Club, leapt a distance of 13.30m to rewrite Joyline M.Lobo's previous best mark of 13.13m set in 2017.

The third record of the day was set by Akhilesh (Udupi) in the U-20 boys' triple jump event, where he cleared a distance of 15.40m to shatter M. Arshad's 15.10m set way back in 2009.

The results (winners only): Men: 100m: V.A. Shashikanth (DYES, Vidhyanagara) 10.56s; **400m:** Mijo Chacko Kurian (DK) 47.07; **800m:** Vishwambhar Kolekar (Fusion Athletic Club) 1:53.1; **5000m:** M. Nithin Kumar (Kodagu) 15:42.6; **110m hurdles:** Advith (DK) 14.65; **Triple jump:** B. Mahanth (Pandupura Athletic Association) 14.78m; **Pole vault:** Bhavith Kumar (SDM Ujire) 3.50m; **Discus:** Muhammed Saqlain Ahmed (Mysuru) 48.56m; **Hammer:** Anjaneya (UK) 50.53.

Women: 100m: Reena George (Mysuru) 11.68s; **400m:** M. Likhitha (DK) 53.18 [NMR; OR: Vijaya Kumari, 53.3, 2018]; **800m:** Deepashree (Alva's) 2:21.5; **5000m:** Chaithra Devadiga (Alva's SC) 19:27.7; **100m hurdles:** Medha Kamath (Bengaluru) 14.62; **Triple Jump:** B. Aishwarya (Fusion Athletic Club) 13.30m [NMR; OR: Joyline M.Lobo, 13.13, 2017]; **Pole vault:** G. Sindhushree (SAI, Bengaluru) 3.40m; **Discus:** Kalavathi Basappa Teli (Belgaavi) 45.82m; **Hammer:** Anreen (Alva's SC) 44.80.

Boys: U-20: 100m: M. Krishik, 10.66s; **400m:** C.H. Rihan (SAI) 47.94; **800m:** Bopanna Kalappa Thelapanda (Mysuru) 1:55.8; **3000m:** P. Shivaji (DYES, Vidyanagara) 8:44.6; **110m hurdles:** M. Krishik (Tumakuru) 14.26; **Triple jump:** Akhilesh (Udupi) 15.40m [NMR; OR: M. Arshad, 15.10, 2009]; **Pole vault:** V.M. Adithya (YSC Bengaluru) 2.80m; **Discus:** Maniratna Hede (DYES, Bengaluru) 46.00m; **Hammer:** Sachin (DYES, Belagavi) 51.81; **1000m race walk:** Abhishek Gowda (Unique Athletic Club, Mysuru) 58:40.1s.

Girls: U-20: 100m: V. Varsha, 11.98s; **400m:** Disha Alige (Bangalore Urban Dist) 1:00.4; **800m:** E.B. Arpita (Fusion Athletic Club) 2:15.2; **3000m:** Priyanka (SAI) 11:07.9; **100m hurdles:** Chandrika Shetty (Udupi) 16.58; **Triple jump:** Krithi G. Shetty (DK) 11.87m; **Pole vault:** Preethi (Alva's SC) 2.60m; **Discus:** Madhurya (DYES, Udupi) 33.86m; **Hammer:** Nishel Delphina D'Souza (DK) 42.50.

SNAPSHOTS

Leclerc on pole as Ferrari locks top row

MIAMI

World championship leader Charles Leclerc claimed pole position ahead of his Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz at the inaugural Miami Grand Prix. Max Verstappen made a rare error and slipped to third on the grid for Red Bull.

Verstappen was third after making a slight mistake on his final flying lap. His teammate Sergio Perez was fourth with Valtteri Bottas fifth for Alfa Romeo and Lewis Hamilton sixth for Mercedes.

It was Leclerc's third pole this year and the 12th of his career. It was Ferrari's first front-row lockout since the 2019 Mexican GP.

The grid: Front row: Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), Carlos Sainz (Ferrari); **Second row:** Max Verstappen (Red Bull), Sergio Perez (Red Bull); **Third row:** Valtteri Bottas (Alfa Romeo), Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes). **Fourth row:** Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri), Lando Norris (McLaren); **Fifth row:** Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri), Lance Stroll (Aston Martin); **Sixth row:** Fernando Alonso (Alpine), George Russell (Mercedes). **Seventh row:** Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin), Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren); **Eighth row:** Mick Schumacher (Haas), Kevin Magnussen (Haas). **Ninth row:** Zhou Guanyu (Alfa Romeo), Alexander Albon (Williams); **Tenth row:** Nicholas Latifi (Williams), Esteban Ocon (Alpine).

Indian men begin campaign in style

The Indian men's and women's badminton teams began their Thomas and Uber Cup campaigns in convincing manner, thrashing Germany 5-0 and outplaying Canada 4-1 respectively on Sunday.

Lakshya Sen began proceedings with a 21-16, 21-13 win over Max Weisskirchen before Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty overcame Jones Ralfy Jansen and Marvin Seidel 21-15, 10-21, 21-13.

The results: Thomas Cup: India bt Germany 5-0 (Lakshya Sen bt Max Weisskirchen 21-16, 21-13; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Jones Ralfy Jansen & Marvin Seidel 21-15, 10-21, 21-13; K. Srikanth bt Kai Schafer 18-21, 21-9, 21-11; M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila bt Bjarne Geiss & Jan Colin Volker 25-23, 21-15; H.S. Prannoy bt Matthias Kicklitz 21-9, 21-9)
Uber Cup: India bt Canada 4-1 (P.V. Sindhu bt Michelle Li 21-17, 21-10; Shruti Mishra & Simran Singhi lost to Rachel Honderich & Kristen Tsai 19-21, 12-21; Aakarshi Kashyap bt Wen Yu Zhang 17-21, 21-18, 21-17; Tanisha Crasto & Treesa Jolly bt Catherine Choi & Josephine Wu 21-9, 21-15; Ashmita Chaliha bt Rachel Chan 12-21, 21-11, 22-20).

Abhay's first PSA Tour title

LORIENT (FRANCE)

Unseeded Abhay Singh of India won his first PSA Tour title, defeating Robin Gadola of Switzerland, seeded fifth, 11-6, 14-16, 9-11, 11-9, 16-14 in the men's final of the Archi Factory Open squash tournament at Lorient (France) on Saturday.

Abhay.